

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2021

“We have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.” *Matthew 2.2*

Welcome

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking people. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

10:00am Service of the Word

Presider:	The Rev'd Dyan Davison
Preacher:	The Rev'd John Macquarrie
Organist:	Curt Bergen
Musicians:	The St. Mary Singers
Live Stream Manager:	Pedro Siqueira

*Note: in the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE & PROCESSION

Wie Schoen Leuchtet der Morgenstern, Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

INTRODUCTORY RESPONSES

Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,
you received gifts from the magi.

Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, Servant Lord,
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed God's gracious reign.

With all the voices of heaven and earth,
we celebrate your epiphany.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

CENTRING STILLNESS

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everliving god, ***you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2006 alt.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

PSALM 72. 1-7, 10-14

Rachel Bergen

Refrain: All nations shall serve him.

1. Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness. R
2. He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another. R
3. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. R
4. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper. R
5. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight. R

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Ephesians 3. 1-12, Carmen Stansberry

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,
³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN:

Brightest and Best, (159)

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.
3. Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2. 1-12

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM:

Three Kings from Persian Lands, Gustav Holst

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, (+) the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Carmen Stansberry

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

in your mercy hear us.

In your prayers this week remember the following: those in need of healing and care, including Sandy, Brad, Robert, Leanne, Dorothy, Mary, Anne, Brynn, Scottie, Vic, Monty, and Catherine. Pray for the parish of St Barnabas and the family of Michael, their music director, who died suddenly on Christmas Day. We pray our diocese of islands and inlets and for Anna, our bishop-elect, Ansley, our diocesan administrator, Melissa, our Metropolitan, and Linda, our Primate. Pray for the congregation of St. John the Baptist, South Cowichan and their clergy John Steele. Territory of the People Anglican Church, Bishop Lincoln McKoen. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Bishop Susan Johnson. In the Church further afield, pray for The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria. Pray for all who are struggling with isolation during the ongoing pandemic. Give thanks for the development of coronavirus vaccines, and pray for their swift and wise distribution.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory

and gathering our prayers and praises into one,

let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

COMMUNITY NOTES

AFFIRMATION

The congregation stands

Glory to God, **Whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old, (160)

1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, with most gracious Lord, may we
ever more be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song,
raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly king.

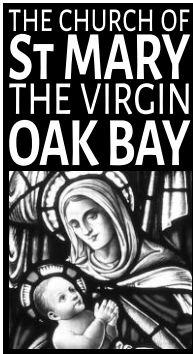
4. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

In Dulci Jubilo, J.S. Bach



1701 ELGIN ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8R 5L7
250-598-2212 • INFO@STMARYSOAKBAY.CA
WWW.STMARYSOAKAY.CA

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Craig Hiebert
incumbent@stmarysoakbay.ca

Priest Associate: The Reverend Dyan Davison
associate@stmarysoakbay.ca

Music Director: Curt Bergen,
music@stmarysoakbay.ca

Parish Administrator: Marianne McGahon, 250-598-2212
admin@stmarysoakbay.ca

Honorary Associate: The Reverend John Macquarrie
jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca

The Stewards of St Mary's

wardens@stmarysoakbay.ca

Rector's Warden: Dr. John McCann, *jmccann@stmarysoakbay.ca*

People's Warden: Karen Wilson, *kwilson@stmarysoakbay.ca*

Associate Warden: Pat Taylor, *ptaylor@stmarysoakbay.ca*

Envelope Secretary: Anne Underhill, *givings@stmarysoakbay.ca*

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