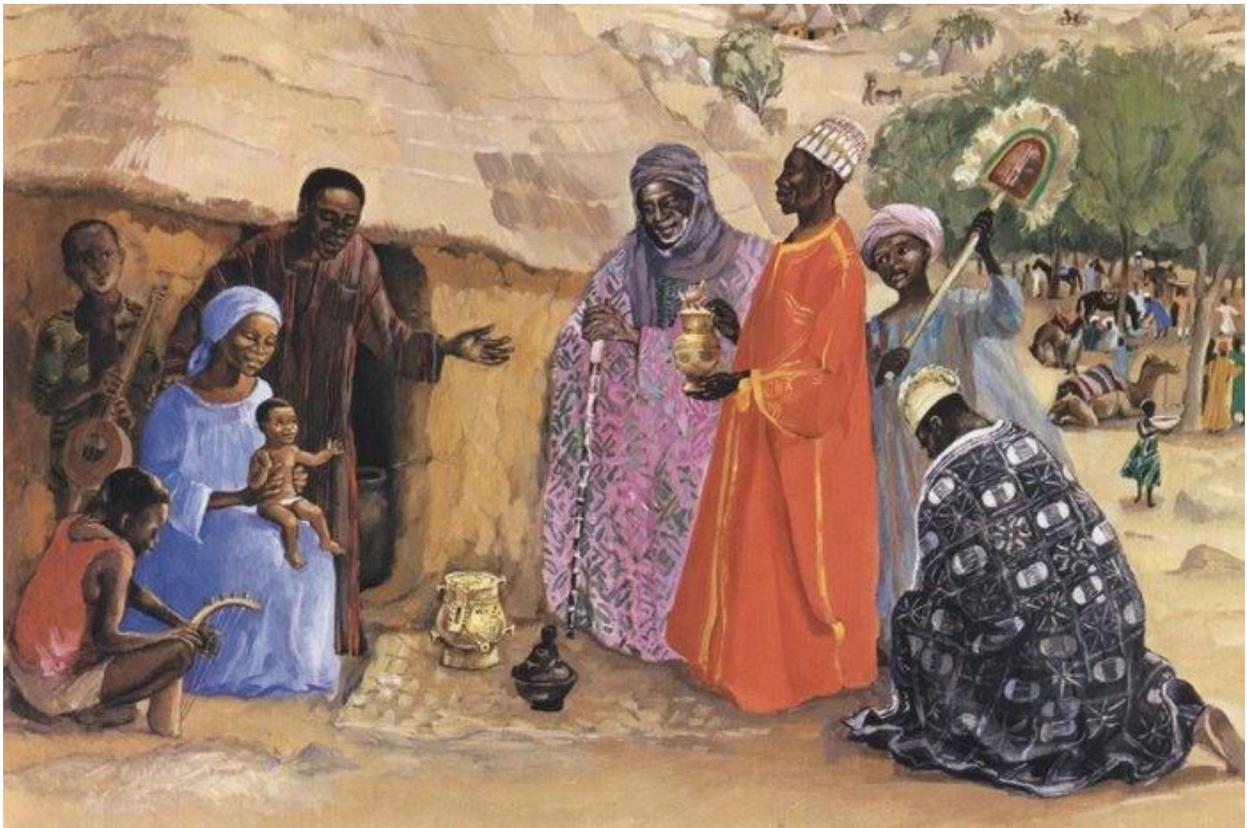




REJOICE FELLOWSHIP

A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PASTOR MADDIE TALLMAN



January 03, 2020 at 10:00 am

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday Before Epiphany

C: indicates spoken responses by the congregation
P: indicates the Presiding Minister
A: indicates the Assisting Minister

Welcome to worship at Rejoice Fellowship! We have moved back to Facebook Live worship only at this time. We also have adopted a few safety measures for the small group that leads worship each week. The point of these measures is to ensure a high level of safety. We thank you for your understanding as we try out new ways of being the church and worshipping during the pandemic, all to the glory of God.

A note about communion—we will be celebrating Holy Communion this morning! We invite you to gather a piece of bread and wine or juice before worship begins. After the Invitation to Communion, all those in-person and at home can consume the elements and receive the blessed sacrament together, even if apart.

✠ Gathering ✠

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of goodness and loving kindness,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

C: Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (ISAIAH 60:1,4,20; PSALM 27:1)

A: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

A: Lift up your eyes and look around:

C: all gather together to proclaim the praise of the Lord.

A: Your sun will never set again.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

A: Your moon will wane no more.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

A: Your days of sorrow will end.

C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

A: Whom shall we fear?

C: Whom shall we fear?

**The Lord is the strength of our life;
whom shall we fear?**

GATHERING HYMN

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!	Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!	Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!	Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ Word ✠

EPISTLE

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ, both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

1This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that

was given me for you, 3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4a 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 heirs with us, 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 me by the working of God's 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, 12through faith in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

1Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

2May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

3May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

4May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

5May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

10May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

11May all kings fall down before him all nations give him service.

12For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

13He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

14From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "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:

⁶And 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 magi 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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR COREY BERGMAN

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

APOSTLE'S CREED

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition:

A: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to safely share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

✠ Meal ✠

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

We are blessed by your generosity! Tithes and offerings can be sent in two ways: electronically by clicking here: <https://rb.gy/ryhn0m> ; or physical checks/cash can be mailed to the office at 105 1st Ave SW, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Thank you for opening your heart!

GENEROSITY TALK

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

✠ Sending ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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DISMISSAL

A: Wherever you go from here, be at peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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JESUS MAFA. Visit of the Three Wise Men, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=48292> [retrieved December 28, 2020].

About the artwork: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.