

Sunday
January 6, 2019
10:30 a.m.

Epiphany of the Lord

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Plain print indicates worship leader.
Bold print indicates congregation.
*Indicates please stand as able.

Gather to Worship

Welcome

Ministry Opportunities

*Call to Worship

Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

Darkness has been banished!

God's light of hope floods the earth.

God's light comes to us all.

Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen.

*Epiphany Opening Prayer

Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of Your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as You created it to be, as You created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May Your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people — Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn: #3056 Jesus, the Light of the World

*Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Hymn: #2233 Where Children Belong

Children's Time ~ *Beth Griner*

Children 3 yrs. to 3rd grade will be dismissed to POP! with Julie Griffin

Choir Anthem: Go Tell the News

Sermon: "With Throbbing Hearts"

Praying for Others and for Ourselves

*Holy Communion

From Worship & Song #3168, "Come to the Table of Grace"

Come to the table of grace, Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Friends, God is ever present with you!

And the people say, "And also with you!"

And also with you!

Turn to the people around you and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

The peace of Christ is always with you!

(We pass the Peace.)

Come to the table of peace, Come to the table of peace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

Listen! The body breathes in together... and out. As close as breath, the Holy Spirit is present with us. So we lift up our hearts. And the family says, "We lift them up to God."

We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One because it is the right thing to do, not only now, but always, for "always" is when God is with us.

I invite you to open both palms upward in the sign language for "give."

We thank You, Creator God, that You formed us in Your image.

Now place your hands together in the sign meaning "to be with."

We thank You, Sustainer God, that You are here with us.

Bring your hands close to your face, in the sign for "prayer." Close your eyes and become aware of your breath on your hands...

We thank You God for breathing into us the breath of life. Even when we have turned away, You have remained with us, close as breath. When we have been frightened, hesitant, still You are patient. You have time and again reached out Your hand to free us, for Your promise is steadfast.

And so, we open our eyes, our hands and our hearts to Your will for us as told to us through Your prophets. We join our voices together praising You along with all who do, have ever done so and ever will do so, repeating:

Holy, Holy, Holy God!

Holy, Holy, Holy God!

Everywhere we see Your Glory!

Everywhere we see Your Glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

... and the widest ...

... **and the widest ...**

... and the deepest ...

... **and the deepest ...**

... core of our being.

... **core of our being.**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Blessed is Your Son who came to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when You would save Your people.

Listen brothers and sisters! The Lord is with you. He healed the sick, fed the hungry... and sat down at the table and ate with especially those others considered "unworthy." Let us remind ourselves by saying "The Lord is present with every one of us."

The Lord is present with every one of us.

Come to the table of love, Come to the table of love.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.

On the night in which Jesus gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the

bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Come to the table of love, Come to the table of love.

This is God's table, it's not yours of mine. Come to the table of love.

Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and creation that:

Christ has died,

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Christ will come again.

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, liberated by His witness, passion and life. Be with us, Holy Spirit, fill us so You can move through us.

I invite you to make a point of connection with those around you by laying a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, whatever is most comfortable for you.

By Your spirit we are one with Christ, the host of this table, and one with each other. Let this joy be seen in us outside of this place. It is with great thanks that all God's people say,

Amen!

Come to the table of joy, Come to the table of joy.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

Gifts and Tithes may be placed in the offering plate as you come forward to receive Communion or in the offering plate as you exit the sanctuary.

***Song:** #2173 Shine, Jesus, Shine

***Song:** #203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn:** #158 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

***Blessing**

***Depart to Serve**

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Family and friends are mourning the loss of Liz Anderson, who passed away Dec. 28. Her funeral was Monday in Grand Rapids.

Eve Fish (RaeAnn Graves's sister-in-law) is in the hospital with serious health issues and is undergoing tests.

Cathy Johnson's mom fell and suffered hypothermia, sepsis, and dementia. She is 84 and needs prayers for healing.

Aliseah and Milo Mooreleg are currently homeless and living at the mission. They lost their home and are looking for something affordable.

Grant Swinehart (Laverne's son) will have surgery on Thursday.

Charlene Taylor is hospitalized in the Flint area.

Previous Requests

Brad and Barb Addis and family are mourning the loss of Brad's aunt, Syrene Addis.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Carol Eaton

Walker Polsinelli is in Kuwait.

Andrea and Matt Luegge and family are mourning the loss of Andrea's Great Aunt June.

Family and friends are mourning the loss of Betty Thomas (Brad and Barb Addis's neighbor).

Pray for military personnel overseas and their families.

In Service to Our Country

Matthew Kohler
Ryan Miller
Walker Polsinelli

Tyler Smith
Geoff White



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Tuesday, Jan. 15.
- Minutes and reports for the Church Council are due in the church office Tuesday, Jan. 15.
- Second mission trip payment (\$125) is due Friday, Jan. 18.

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission needs bread

We are collecting bread for The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. If you would like to contribute, please bring loaves of sliced white bread to the church, and they will be delivered to KGM.

We need someone to set up for Play Gym

We need someone willing to set up the gym for Play Gym (paid position) for 1/2 hour on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. Contact Laurie Nic at 269-598-2264.

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Pat McClelland
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Mina Willett

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

1/6 Stacy Gose	Robert Parsons
Therisa Gruber	1/9 Melissa Wood
Lois Myers	1/10 Jim Thompson
1/7 Liam Miller	1/12 Brock Agnone
	Kevin Moore

This Week's Calendar

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, January 7

1:00 p.m. *Caring Ministries in the Library*
6:00 p.m. *Finance Committee in the Library*
6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC
6:30 p.m. Scout Troop meeting in the Taylor Room
7:00 p.m. *Worship Committee in the Library*
8:00 p.m. *SPRC in the Library*

Tuesday, January 8

2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room
6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth) in Room 107
6:30 p.m. Scouts in the FLC

Wednesday, January 9

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Winners in the Taylor Room
2:45 p.m. SHED (middle school outreach), Rm 107
5:00 p.m. HELIX (middle school youth), Room 107
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir practice in the Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, January 10

Storing of the Greens
5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board in the Library*
6:00 p.m. *AED/CPR training in the FLC*
6:30 p.m. *Scouts Distr. Round Table, Taylor Room*
7:00 p.m. Apprentice class in the Library

Friday, January 11 - Pastor's Day Off

no activities are scheduled

Saturday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Pickleball in the FLC

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

Next Week

Sunday, January 13

11:30 a.m. *Chili Cook-off fundraiser, FLC*

Saturday, January 19

8:30 a.m. *Loaves & Fishes till 10:00a, FLC*

Today's altar flowers are provided by Jolene and Ken Cron in honor of their daughter, Stacy's, birthday and by Georgia Rolfe in memory of her husband, Stanley, designed by Heirloom Rose in Schoolcraft

Today's acolytes are
John Paul Culver and Harrison Barton

December 30 attendance:
Worship 92 Sunday School 10

AED and CPR training class

The church has purchased an AED (defibrillator device), and we need people who are trained to use it. We will have a training for the AED and CPR on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The cost (for a book and instructor fees) is \$30 per person. Please call the church office at 269-649-2343 to sign up.

Play Gym begins again January 17

Play Gym, a fun, inexpensive "play with me" group for 1- to 5-year-olds and their favorite adult, meets on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The "Wacky & Love" session will be Jan. 17- Feb 14 with a snow day make-up date of Feb. 21. Sign ups have begun for current class members and will begin Jan 9 for new folks. To sign up, call the church at 269-649-2343.



CHILI COOK OFF

Sunday, January 13
11:30 a.m. | Family Life Center

Fundraiser for Summer Mission Trip

Storing of the Greens

We will be putting our Christmas decorations back into storage on Thursday, Jan. 10. Please join us if you can help.



Do you have ideas? Let us know.

Fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or in Polly's box in the work room.

One thing that I think we should be doing that we don't—something that would really help our church grow and reach those that need it, is

One thing we have always done as a Church that I really don't understand and think should be discontinued is



Children ages 3 yrs. to third grade leave the worship service right after the kids' message and are returned to service after the offering.

Please be sure your child has a name tag with age or grade and your cell phone number.