

January 10, 2010

The flowers this morning have been placed
in loving memory of Mildred Hillis
by Heather, Don, Jenny and Jessica Beard.

The flowers in the chancel this morning
are in loving memory of Elinor Leard,
given by her husband Earl Leard.

Participating in today's service are: Paul Colman (coordinating greeter); Liz Blake, Mary Ann Borden, Pat and Ian Fraser (greeters); Connie Capes-Leslie and Deborah Hart (liturgists); Walter Wells (reader); Don Parsons (preacher); Lee Lockwood, Doug Reid, Gloria van Geilsnyk (anointers); Ann Barrett, Jim Carson, Joyce De Yong, Anita Hofstatter, Coral Martin, Gordon Nodwell, Joan and Bruce Pope, Carol and Gerry Shaw, Willie Smee, Mary Thomson, Janet and Geoffrey Whitney (communion servers); Joanne Lee (sound); Peter Merrick and the Choir.

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Light looked down
and saw darkness.
"I will go there," said Light.

Peace looked down
and saw war.
"I will go there," said Peace.

Love looked down
and saw hatred.
"I will go there," said Love.

So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.

*Wild Goose Resource Group,
The Iona Community.*

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

January 10, 2010 10:30 a.m.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are **bold**.*

The Mass Setting is the Mass of St. Thomas by Robert Fleming

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie *Maurice Duruflé*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING *(The congregation stands as able.)*

The Magi journeyed from a far-away place, following a star.

**As we gather today at our Lord's Table,
the star still sheds light in our lives.**

The Magi brought gifts to offer the Holy Child.

We also bring gifts - ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

Shepherds and Magi - the meek and the mighty -
all were welcome in that Bethlehem barn.

**"As with gladness men of old,
did the guiding star behold,"**

let us also find our way to the manger.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 81 As with gladness men of old *Dix*

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: *(The congregation is seated.)*

God of gold, we seek your glory:

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Come, for all things are now ready.

(An usher will direct you to the appropriate station. Please return to your seats by the side aisles.

Front section: *please proceed up the centre aisle to the two stations at the front of the Church.*

Back section: *please proceed down the centre aisle to the two stations at the rear of the Church.*

Transepts: *please wait for directions to the two stations at the front.*

Balcony: *please remain seated as communion will be served to you.*

Healing stations are available in the four corners of the Sanctuary. *If you wish, you may go there for prayer and anointing with oil, after having received the elements.)*

COMMUNION MOTET Here is the little door *Herbert Howells*

Here is the little door: lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more but enter with our gift: our gift of finest gold, gold that was never bought nor sold; myrrh to be strewn about his bed; incense in clouds about his head. All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep, but holy slumber holds with ass and sheep. Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift; see how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword (Defend with it thy little Lord!); for incense, smoke of battle red; myrrh for the honoured happy dead: gifts for his children, terrible and sweet, touched by such tiny hands and, oh, such tiny feet. (Text by Frances Chesterton.)

OPENING DOORS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

We give thanks, God of light,

that you have refreshed us at your table

by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our faith,

increase our love for one another,

and send us into the world

to be a source of Christ's light and love

for each other, and for the whole family of earth;

in the Spirit of the Christ-child we pray. Amen.

HYMN 97 When a Star is shining *King's Weston*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE How brightly shines the morning-star! *Dietrich Buxtehude*

In Jesus' birth, and life, and death you have destroyed the power of death;
and by raising Christ to new life you have given us life for evermore.

We praise you, God of light.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray to you, God of the infinite mystery of galaxies,
and the intimacy of a baby's cry;
send your Holy Spirit among us,
that we and these gifts of bread and cup spread before you now
may become the incarnation of your love, peace,
and justice in our world.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever. Amen.**

Now as children turn to a loving parent,
let us pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 914

BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of our world.
In the pouring of this wine,
we remember the life-giving love of God poured out for all.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

(Those serving communion come forward.)

AGNUS DEI

Robert Fleming

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.*

**the richness that transforms drabness into colour,
and brightens our dullness with vibrant light;
your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.**

God of incense, we offer you our prayer:

our spoken and unspeakable longings,

our questioning of truth,

our searching for your mystery deep within.

God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:

the pain of all our rejections and bereavements,

our baffled despair at undeserved suffering,

our rage at continuing injustice.

In our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss,
we embrace you, God-with-us. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

RESPONSE Gloria 37

(The Gloria is sung once in unison and then twice in a four-part round.)

LEARNING TOGETHER TIME

(The children gather briefly at the chancel steps.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN 87 I am the light of the world

The Light of the World

(The children will go to Church School.)

OPENING MINDS

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60: 1-6

This is the witness of God's people.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 72

p. 790

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1-12

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM Three Wise Ones (from *The Three Kings*) *Anders Öhrvall*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all of good will. In a manger, in a stable, a mighty wonder came to be. There a Saviour, Lord Jesus, was born for all folk to see. Then the Kings started their journey, and in the sky above was a star. Their hearts full of gladness, they travelled days and nights from afar. They were kings led by a mission, they carried frankincense and gold, precious gifts from their tradition among the gifts that they would unfold. And the star twinkled to guide them, its dazzle bringing hope and delight. They arrived at a stable in little Bethlehem one night. Little Jesus, sweet baby, was born on straw in a lowly shed, with oxen and donkeys to keep watch round his bed. The kings knelt around him when bringing gifts to their King. All the world will praise Jesus, and all the bells in heaven will ring.

SERMON Unexpected Visitors at the Manger

HYMN 93 When heaven's bright with mystery *Sussex Carol*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OPENING HEARTS

INVITATION

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share signs of Peace with their neighbours.)

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY HYMN 92 In the darkness shines the splendour *Irby*

*(The congregation remains seated for the singing of this hymn,
and then stands as the offering and Communion Gifts are brought forward.)*

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The congregation remains standing as able.)*

The Spirit of the God of Light be with you.

And also with you.

Let us turn to God, the source of life.

We open our hearts in prayer.

As Magi offered their gifts, let us offer our thanks to God.

It is good to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God of light and love,
by the light of your promise
you guide your people across the desert and through the night.
In the light of your presence
we behold your glory and offer you our gifts.
Through the light of your peace
you claim us as your beloved, and joy is our banquet.
We give you thanks that you make manifest your glory:
lighting the way for every pilgrim,
gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace,
setting a table for all who seek your life-giving presence.
And so it is that we sing your praise:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Robert Fleming

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is the One that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Loving God, in the Holy Child of Bethlehem
we recognize the fullness of your grace;
light, life and love revealed
for all your people everywhere.

We praise you, God of light.

We remember that on the eve of his death
Jesus came to the table with his friends.
He took bread, thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and shared it with his disciples saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”
After the meal, he took a cup of wine,
expressed thanks to you, and passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant,
the sign of God’s love for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”