

Epiphany sends us home 'a new way'

Taizé Service | Jan. 5, 2023



Introduction and Welcome

As we continue the celebration of the Christmas Season, on this night we remember the Feast of Epiphany, when a star led the Magi to honor the Christ Child with treasures.

The Magi then went home a different way than they had come to Bethlehem.

Are we leaving the Christmas Season different than we were a month ago? What are your goals to make sure you become a different person in this new year?

Chant: What Star is This?

Reading: "The Gift of Christmas" (Based on the Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12)

In those days, there were people who would study the stars in order to find out what was going to happen in the future. One of the names given to these people was Magi. Many of them lived in the countries to the east of Israel.

Three of these Magi were looking at the skies when suddenly they saw a new star. They studied the star and realized that it was a sign that a new King had been born to the Jews.

The Magi set out from their own country in the east in order to meet that new King. They traveled with

WHAT STAR IS THIS

PUER NOBIS



1. What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2. 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
3. O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
4. To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, To Christ, re -



1. than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a
2. shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the — east - ern
3. on to seek thy face, Let not our — sloth - ful
4. vealed in earth - ly night, To God the — Ho - ly



1. new - born king, Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
2. sag - es stand To read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.
3. hearts re - fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
4. Spir - it raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise!

THE FIRST NOWELL

THE FIRST NOWELL

their servants and camels and the gifts that they were bringing to the baby.

This was a very dangerous trip, but the Magi knew that it was important for them to take the risk. They knew that this star was the sign of a most important King.

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, they looked around for information about the baby. They went up to many people and said, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." They were sure that everyone would know about Him, but it just was not so. No one whom they asked had heard anything about a newborn King.

Soon a report about these three Magi reached King Herod, the king of the Jews. He was a very evil man and had killed many people because he had thought that they wanted to be king. When he heard that the Magi were speaking about a newborn King, he became frightened.

King Herod called the chief priests and the scribes together and asked them about the promised Messiah. He wanted to know where this Messiah would be born.

The priests and scribes studied the question and then told the king that the prophets had spoken about how the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Bethlehem was called the city of David because the great king of Israel had been born there.

King Herod then called the Magi in to talk with them in secret. He asked them when they had first seen the star and many other things. When they had answered all of his questions, he sent them away. He told them to go to Bethlehem so that they could find the child. When they had found Him, they were to send word to King Herod for he told them that he wanted to go and pay his respects to the child. However, he really wanted to kill Him.

Verses



1. The first No - well, the an - gel did say,
 2. They look - ed up and saw ___ a star
 3. And by the light of that ___ same star
 4. This star drew nigh to the ___ north - west,
 5. Then en - tered in those wise ___ men three,
 6. Then let us all with one ___ ac - cord



1. Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2. Shin - ing in ___ the east, ___ be - yond ___ them far;
 3. Three ___ wise ___ men came ___ from coun - try far;
 4. O'er ___ Beth - le - hem ___ it took ___ its rest,
 5. Full ___ rev - 'rent - ly ___ up - on ___ the knee,
 6. Sing ___ prais - es to ___ our heav - 'nly Lord;



1. In fields where _ they lay keep - ing their sheep,
 2. And to the ___ earth it gave ___ great light,
 3. To seek for a king was their ___ in - tent,
 4. And there it ___ did both stop ___ and stay,
 5. And of - fered ___ there, in his ___ pres - ence,
 6. Who with the ___ Fa - ther we ___ a - dore



1. On a cold win - ter's night ___ that was ___ so deep.
 2. And ___ so it con - tin - ued both day ___ and night.
 3. And to fol - low the star ___ wher - ev - er it went.
 4. Right _ o - ver the place ___ where Je - sus lay.
 5. Their _ gold ___ and myrrh ___ and frank - in - cense.
 6. And ___ Spir - it blest ___ for ev - er - more.

Refrain



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: Irregular with refrain; trad. English Carol, 17th cent.; verse 6, alt. Music: Trad. English Carol, 17th cent.

As soon as the Magi set out, they once again saw the star. It was only about five miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, so the Magi were able to travel there in a short time.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, they saw that the star had stopped over a cave just outside the city. They went there and found Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus.

The Magi immediately entered the stable and fell down on their knees. They honored the child and brought out the gifts that they had brought Him from their homeland. They brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

It is said that there was a special meaning to these gifts, a meaning that even the Magi may not have realized when they chose them.

Gold was a gift that someone would give to a king. It is a sign of the fact that Jesus is the King of the Jews and the King of all kings. Frankincense is a type of incense. One would normally burn it as an offering to God. It was a sign of the hidden fact that Jesus is the only Son of God. Finally, myrrh is an ointment that one would use when someone was being buried. It pointed to the way that Jesus would free us from our sins, through His death and resurrection.

The Magi were going to go back to Jerusalem to tell king Herod about the child, but an angel appeared to them in a dream and told them to go back a different way.

Chant: The First Nowell verses 2-6

Reading: "Searching"

When John the Baptist was preaching along the Jordan River, people were searching for more than John. People were searching for more in their lives. It was their search for more that led them to the Jordan.

We are all searching.

Searching is why people often make a pilgrimage. Searching is why people pick up books during sacred seasons. We are all searching for something. Each of us wants to be happy. Many of us are searching for peace. Some of us long for direction and clarity in life. Remember it is in the silence that we will often discover what we are searching for — and sometimes what we are running from. The key in life is to not run from what we are searching for, but to embrace what we are searching for.

The more we are in touch with what we desire, the more we are disposed to receive that very thing from the Lord.

Knowing that God wants to do something new in your life, what is it that you ask him? What are you searching for?

O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

Jacques Berthier

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
Alt. text: The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
 when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the
 Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.
 Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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What are your goals for this new year? Make sure that they are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely.

Extended Silence

Petitions

Chant 2x then once after each petition

1. For the Church, that she may welcome the poor, the sick, the stranger, and the sinner as Christ welcomes them, we pray:
2. For those who suffer at the hands of their leaders, that they may know God's freedom and security, we pray:
3. For all those whose journey is difficult and whose spirits are weary, we pray:
4. For the gift of hospitality toward people of every language and culture, we pray:
5. For migrants, immigrants, refugees, and all who have come to this country in search of a better life; that we may welcome them and recognize the gifts that they bring, we pray:

We pray together the Lord's Prayer

Chant 5x: The Lord is My Light

Closing Prayer

Lord, You who live outside of time, and reside in the imperishable moment, we ask Your Blessing on this New Year upon Your Gift to us of Time.

The Lord Is My Light

Bless our clocks and watches,
You who kindly direct us to
observe the passing of minutes
and hours.

May they make us aware of
the miracle of each second of
life we experience

May these our ticking servants
help us not to miss that which
is important, while You keep
us from machine-like routine.

May we ever be free from being clock watchers and
instead become time lovers.

Bless our calendars, these ordered lists of days,
weeks and months, of holidays, holydays, fasts and
feasts, all our special days of remembering.

May these servants, our calendars, once reserved for
the royal few, for magi and pyramid priests, now
grace our homes and our lives.

May they remind us of birthdays and other gift-days,
as they teach us the secret that all life is meant for
celebration and contemplation.

Bless, Lord, this New Year, each of
its 365 days and nights.

Bless us with full moons and new
moons.

Bless us with happy seasons and a
long life.

Grant to us, Lord, the New Year's
gift of a year of love.

+Amen.

Chant: As With Gladness Men of Old

For home reflection:

We will celebrate the Feast of
Epiphany in our churches the
weekend of Jan. 7-8. An ancient
Epiphany practice is the blessing of
homes by marking the entrance to
the house with chalk. To bless your
home, offer this prayer:

“Let us bless our home and pray
that all will be welcome here. Let
this door be an entry for the
blessings of God. Let this door be a
gateway of God's blessings to the
world.”

Theme 1

1. The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in
2. God I trust, in God I trust.

Last time

With chalk, write above the door of your main
entrance the year, crosses and the first initial of the
traditional names of the Three Kings (Gaspar,
Melchior, Balthazar): 20 + G + M + B + 23

**Please join us again, in person or live stream, on
February 2, 2023**

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AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

DIX

1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
5. In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -

1. star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
2. man - ger - bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
3. rude and bare; So may we with ho - ly joy,
4. nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
5. at - ed light; Thou, its light, its joy, its crown,

1. Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
2. Him whom heav'n and earth a - dore; So may we with
3. Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
4. Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
5. Thou its sun which goes not down; There for ev - er

1. Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to thee.
2. will - ing feet Ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3. trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heav'n - ly King.
4. star to guide, Where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
5. may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text: 77 77 77; William C. Dix, 1837-1898.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872; adapt. by William H. Monk, 1823-1889.