

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 5, 2014

Epiphany:

God's radical process of inclusion

“...former outsiders, Gentiles, have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Ephesians 3: 6

Welcome & Special Announcements

Brad Born

Inviting the Mystery

Gathering Music & Procession

We carry in a flame, the Bible, and a prayer cloth. May we trust the Light to guide us, the Word to teach us, and prayer to knit our lives together with God as we begin our time of worship.

Welcome and prayer

Call to worship

Come as fellow heirs of the living God!

Let us awake to the marvel that in Christ we are one.

Oh, the mystery of God's dwelling in our diversity!

Our hearts thrill and rejoice

as we open with the house of the Lord!

Hymn HWB 233

Joyful is the dark

Engaging the Mystery

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Confession and engaging the Advent wreath

Lift up your eyes and look. There is no partiality in Christ.

How might we

let all people in on this mystery?

(pause)

Let us confess our unwillingness to share Christ with those of other nations, tribes, races, families, social classes and denominations.

(pause)

The Advent wreath reminds us that our light has come.

In this light, we celebrate forgiveness:

the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Hymn STJ 23

Slowly turning, ever turning

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Children's time

Sarah and David Kaufman

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Quiet Reflection

The periods of silence will begin and end with the ringing of a chime.

Celebrating the Mystery

Meditation

“By another road”

Rob Burdette

Quiet Reflection

Hymn of Response HWB 322

For we are strangers no more

Offertory and Prayer

Sharing Time and Introductions

During this time in the service we welcome visitors, invite responses to the worship service, and share prayer concerns and joys. Please sign the Welcome Pages (black books) in the pews so we can learn each others' names.

Prayers of the People

Sending Song STJ 54

Longing for light

Benediction

The mystery has been made known!

The good new of Jesus Christ is for all.

There is light!

Hearing devices are available from an usher or the sound booth.

Epiphany: *God's radical process of inclusion*

This imaginative reflection on the magi is not too far from Matthew's own intent. In the persons of the magi Matthew was anticipating the Gentile Christians of his own community. Although these had as their birthright only the revelation of God in nature, they had been attracted to Jesus; and when instructed in the scripture of the Jews, they had come to believe in and pay homage to the Messiah.

- Raymond E. Brown



Sunday, January 5, 2014

Greeters: David & Mary Duerksen; Chuck & Cindy Regier
Musicians: Martha Unruh Szambecki, Mark Schmidt Andres
Visual Arts: Marlene Smucker
Sound and Closing: Brett Prothro
Bulletin cover: James Jacques Joseph Tissot, *Journey of the Magi*

Pastor: Sara Dick
Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette
Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger
Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

Our purpose is to worship and praise God together, to pray for and encourage each other to live our covenant with God and to share Christ's good news with others. As Anabaptist Christians we will reach out to others, welcome all people, be aware of our neighbors and respond to their needs, and give ourselves to service.

9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship
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