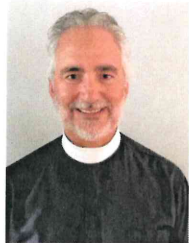


Epiphany Revealed



On January 6th we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. In many parts of the world, Epiphany is a bigger holiday than our Christmas. People engage in gift giving with friends and loved ones based on the story of the wise men bringing gifts to the baby Jesus rather than on a story of a jolly fat man in a red suit who comes from the North Pole. The word “epiphany,” as defined in the dictionary has two meanings. When the word is capitalized it refers to God being revealed to the world in the person of Jesus. In lower case, the term applies to any display of a deity. We typically use the word today to describe any insightful or dramatic moment that instills new spiritual insight, vision, or perspective into our lives.

An epiphany is not something to be hidden rather it is something to be shared. God was revealed to the world in Bethlehem in the form of a newborn baby. The news of the Epiphany was shared with the shepherds in Luke’s Gospel and in Matthew’s Gospel the news is shared with the magi. Matthew is the only gospel writer to describe this story while the other evangelists do not mention it. Contrary to popular perception, Matthew does not speak of three magi or give them names, nor does he refer to them as kings. The number three was apparently arrived at several hundred years later from the number of gifts mentioned.

For Matthew, the Magi represent the Gentile Christians coming to know Jesus. These pagan Magi came to see the King of the Jews and they are described as model believers. The “Epiphany” for the wise men was the recognition that the prophecies of the Messiah had become a reality. They believed that God had come into the world for all people, and they accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

From Matthew’s perspective, the magi were authentic spiritual seekers. They did not give up seeking even when things were difficult. They had to change their attitudes and behaviors towards others who were different from them as they sought out the Messiah in places they had not expected. At the end of their spiritual journey, these magi discovered a truth that led them more deeply to God. The story of the magi is a story about spiritual hunger – a hunger that all humans share.

Like the Magi, aren’t we all spiritual seekers? We all have our own story to tell which recounts our path to find God in our lives. There is no one way that we all arrive at the feet of the newborn king. Some of us have been attending Episcopal or other Christian churches all our lives and we have found Jesus in these places. Others of us may have started looking for him when we were adults, and our seeking has now brought us to Grace. But no matter what our spiritual journey has been, all of us are invited to experience this “Epiphany” again. May God give us the desire and the motivation to follow Jesus, this day and forever more.

Pastor Steve

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 am
TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY PHONE VIA ZOOM

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: YouTube

Link on website

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 am in Guild Room

Worship resources are available on our website anytime.



ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2024

On Sunday, January 28th we will only have one **service at 9:30 am** (which will be on Zoom) followed by a potluck brunch and our Annual Meeting. If you are able, please bring a dish to share! There will be **bible study at 8:30**.

January Birthdays

Charles Ewalt	1/3
Grace Westergren	1/6
Karen Davenport	1/8
Jeff Lamb	1/15
Lare Poucher	1/18
Alexander Kinsora	1/20
Shirley Lappi	1/21
Ann Gwinnell	1/26
Edie Wakevanien	1/31



Currently

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm

Sundays (Nov-March) at 4:00 pm

GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Curbside distribution.

"B" BUCKS for Blessings in a Backpack



If your wallet has any dollar bills with B on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.



Recommended Donations

Canned Soups, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Tuna Fish/Canned Chicken, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Cereal,

Applesauce in Cans

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Music Director: Josh Dulin

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan



Sundays at 9:30 am at Grace

Bible Study will take place in the Guild Room

From the Music Ministry

Happy New Year, Grace!



"New life, new hope, new joy He brings!"

A new year that brings with it the uncertainty of what is to come, but with hope that with Christ, all will be made right with the world as long as we continue to sing, pray, and work together!

As we move into this time of celebration and planning, I hope your hearts and ears have been blessed by our talented and gracious body here at Grace who continue to glorify God with their instruments of praise. I thank each of you for how you use your talents and gifts for our Creator from whom all blessings comes from. Each sound only creates an additional layer of musical depth and beauty and further exemplifies how we can work together in love!

I am grateful as you must be to have this blessed shared, sacred place now in 2024 where we lift each other up throughout the week and meet the many pressing needs of our community. I have paused and smiled several times this last year when simply looking around at how much life is going on here and how many people are blessed followed with joy at how praise is so freely offered up on Sundays! It continues to feel like nothing less than the right place to be.

Yes, I hope this year as you look around and see where God may be calling you to serve (or sing!), you too will feel that you have found your "perfect fit;" a place to grow, serve, and pass on knowledge and wisdom that you have gained. No, God does not ask for nor expects perfection; just a willing spirit to do His will, and this is a spirit that is genuinely felt all over this great church.

As always, I look forward to seeing you Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. to share your willing spirit in voice as we sing songs of love and praise to our Lord who keeps us and sustains us throughout every year and within each quiet moment. Indeed, God is with us always.

I pray for God's peace and continued blessings to you all in this year of 2024,

Josh Dulin
Minister of Music

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Thursday, January 11, at 6pm to discuss the book "The Sun Does Shine", by Anthony Ray Hinton. We will meet at Ann Strevel's home at 6pm. Please call Ann with any questions about this meeting.