



## THREE KINGS SUNDAY Feast of the Epiphany

January 3, 2021

Hosted by Episcopalians Together in Oxford

St. Peter's Church & Christ Church Quaker Farms



**INTRODUCTION** by Don Peck, Director, producer & camera

**WELCOME -- The Rev. John Donnelly**

“Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

**OPENING SENTENCES** The Rev. Ellen Donnelly

Blessed be God, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

**AND BLESSED BE HIS KINGDOM, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN**

Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the People of the earth. We thank you for this most precious of all gifts. Grant that we, inspired by your generosity would likewise be generous towards You, your church, and others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE** “Joy to the World” as led by Laura Web and Keith Roland

Lord is come let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him Room and heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world the saviour reigns let us our songs employ while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove, the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, And wonders of his love.

**THE READING (and KID STORY) Matthew 2:1-12** Read by Rev. Ellen

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

King Herod, then asked his religious advisors where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: For you, O Bethlehem, from you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. **THE WORD OF THE LORD. People: Thanks be to God.**

**THE SERMON: *The Rev. John Donnelly****For member directories contact**Rev. Ellen: [fedonnelly@gmail.com](mailto:fedonnelly@gmail.com) Fr. John: [fjccqf@gmail.com](mailto:fjccqf@gmail.com)***POST SERMON SONG “In the Bleak Midwinter”***Played by Katherine Browne, CCQF Minister of Music*

In the bleak mid-Winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone.  
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak mid-Winter, long ago

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor can the Earth sustain,  
 Heaven and Earth shall flee away when he comes to reign  
 In the bleak mid-Winter a stable place suffice, The Lord God incarnate ,Jesus Christ

What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
 If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what can I give him? Give my heart

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Led by Rev Ellen**

Let us now sit or kneel before our Lord God, as we prepare to pray. (Pause)

Oh God, as the kings of old traveled great distances and expended great effort to acknowledge the coming of Christ the King, so we acknowledge this great epiphany:

**PEOPLE: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, TO THE END THAT ALL WHO BELIVE IN HIM WOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

All of our hopes are bound up in the person of Jesus Christ. We could not hope for better news than His gospel.

**PEOPLE: IN THE YEAR AHEAD, INSPIRE US TO OFFER TO YOU JESUS, OUR MOST PROFOUND GIFTS: OF TIME AND TREASURE**

In certainty that what we offer will be put to good use, woven into the fabric of Christ’s completed work.

**AND THIS IS THE WORK CHRIST HAS DONE AND IS DOING: AWAKENING IN US AND IN THE EARTH THE KINGDOM OF GOD -- THAT GOOD KINGDOM, THAT PROMISED LAND, PRESENT AND UNSEEN, NOW AND NOT YET, REVEALED AND MYSTERIOUS.**

Let us now offer our own prayers and thanksgivings.

**EVERYONE: MAY OUR GIFTS BE AS PLEASING TO YOU AS GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH. AND MAY WE CONTINUALLY RENEW OUR UNDERSTANDING AND AWE OF THE COMING AND WORK OF CHRIST JESUS. AMEN**

**Fr. John:** Now please join me in praying for the New Year.

**EVERYONE:** Dear God, we thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you’ve allowed in our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which remind us to rely upon your mercy and grace every single day. We pray that your Spirit may lead us each step of this New Year. Amen. *(Prayer by St. Xavier)*

**THE PEACE** *We are going to exchange the Peace now. Some of us are sitting with family members, and others of us are not. For those of us, who are alone, you can exchange the “peace “with Jesus by making the peace sign; the others of you may exchange the peace with one another.*

Rev. John: May the Peace of the Prince of Peace be always with you.

**PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

**THE OFFERING –Rev. Ellen**

**“All good things come from you O Lord, and from what is yours, we give back to you.”**

During this time of self quarantine and no in-person Sunday services, the church is still required to fulfill our financial obligations and pay our bills. Your continued and needed donations are desperately needed and always appreciated. **CCQF friends & parishioners** can send a check to the church at Christ Church Quaker Farms, 470 Quaker Farms Rd., Oxford, CT. 06478 Or, go to our web page, where you will find a green button on the right, so that you can make an online donation at...[www.ccqf.org](http://www.ccqf.org) **For those giving to St. Peters**, checks maybe mailed to St. Peter’s Church, 421 Oxford Rd, Oxford, CT 06478

**THE LORD’S PRAYER—led by Rev. Ellen**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE BLESSING—Fr. John**

May God Almighty, who led the maggi by a star to find the Savior, May He guide you to find Jesus in the New Year.

**CONCLUDING SONG “We 3 Kings,” as played by Katherine Browne**

We 3 kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse Afar.

Field and fountain more and mountain following yonder star.

O----- Star of wonder, star of night star with Royal beauty bright, Westward leading still proceeding , Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to Crown him again. King forever ceasing never over us all to reign.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice,  
Heaven sings alleluia, alleluya the Earth replies.

**DISMISSAL**

Rev Ellen: Let us go forth to shine the Light of Christ. Alleluia!! Alleluia!!

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!!**

### **CCQF NEWS**

**The ECW Angel Tree** will have a slightly different format this year. Instead of gifts we will be collecting gift cards. Our family is part of our CCQF family. An extremely loving couple has welcomed six children into their home.

The siblings had been living in North Carolina, and when their situation changed the family was threatened with being separated. After considerable red tape, the children aged 6-16 are finally residing with their family in Connecticut. Adding so many children to a household is daunting. We would like to provide gift cards to the places that the family frequents on a regular basis: Kohls, Boscovs, Target, Walmart, and Stop and Shop. Gift cards can be mailed to Laura Burr at her home in Middlebury or dropped off at her office 71 Oxford Road, Monday-Friday 9-5. Please have donations to Laura by December 15 so that she can be sure the family has them in time to help ease the financial strain before Christmas.

Also, please keep this family in your prayers as they continue to share God's love with their new children.

**SPOONER HOUSE** Thank you to everyone who contributed to our December Holiday Feast for the Spooner House in Shelton. It has truly been amazing that we have been able to provide a meal every month since the pandemic hit. It has been a testament to your generosity and compassion. We will continue to provide dinner on the first Monday of every month. There are currently ten residents. The next dinner will be Monday, January 4. If you would like to help with the meal, or if your family is interested in providing a meal, please contact Kathie Osborn.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE NAVAJO CHILDREN** *By Marilyn Stebar, Coordinator* The Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN), known formally as Navajoland Area Mission is located in the Four Corners Region of the United States. ECN exists in one of the most economically and financially struggling regions in the country. Navajoland has long participated in efforts to integrate Navajo language, traditions and spirituality within its expression of the Episcopal faith and life. The people seek to live out the power of God's incarnation as proclaimed in the Gospel through the Navajo language and spirituality. Christ Church Quaker Farms has been a friend to ECN for many years now. It is our tradition for the children to bring in unwrapped presents for us to send to the children in Navajoland. Unwrapped gifts will be collected on Sunday, January 3, at CCQF, from 3 to 5pm. If you cannot come at that time, call Marilyn Stebar (203-888-3469)