



## First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

*Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Today in the Christian Church Calendar is Epiphany in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Epiphany means an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being.*

### Scripture

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

#### **Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

### Song

*Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

### ***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,  
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. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

("We Three Kings of Orient Are" words and tune by John H. Hopkins, Jr., © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #2031793)

### **Prayer**

***II Chronicles 7:14*** *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, we are not accustomed to giving thanks for the day of Epiphany. It sneaks by us in the busyness of the season just past and the thoughts of starting a new year. Thank you that you are a God who is not absent or silent, but actively reveals yourself in so many ways in creation and in the special revelation of yourself in your Son. Thank you for star you used to guide wise men to seek and find Jesus and offer as acts of worship costly gifts. Thank you in your infinite wisdom you also chose to open our eyes to see the "light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6).

Holy Father, there are still many in our world and even in our own circle of relationships who respond to the news of Jesus like Herod did, with fear or resistance or misunderstanding. By your Holy Spirit breakdown the barriers, open blind eyes, soften hard hearts, remove fear and doubt. And forgive us when out of our own fear or insecurity we hurt others.

In this new year renew in us adoration and worship like the wise men, that we would be willing to make sacrifices to seek Jesus, and offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1). May you be pleased to use us as a light in the world and let the light of Jesus shine in our words and actions, that people might "see our good works and give glory to the Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Thank you for this day, for not leaving us in the dark and for sending Jesus as a light not only to the Jews but to us Gentiles as well. All glory, praise, honor and worship to you, in Jesus name, Amen.