

**2. And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
without money, without strife.**

**Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?**

**3. And let all who toil, let them come to the water.  
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:  
all who labor without rest.**

**How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?**

**4. And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:  
bring the children without might.**

**Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.**

Text & Music: John Foley, based on Isaiah 55:1-2, Matthew 11:28-30, © 1978 John B. Foley, S. J., New Dawn Music/OCP Publications

Communion Song: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" LUYH 825

Psalm 103

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the Lord, my soul; and forget not all his benefits--  
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion.**

We Offer our Gifts

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who have financial needs.

Offertory Song: "We Are Called" LUYH 296

## We are Sent with God's Blessing

\*Benediction

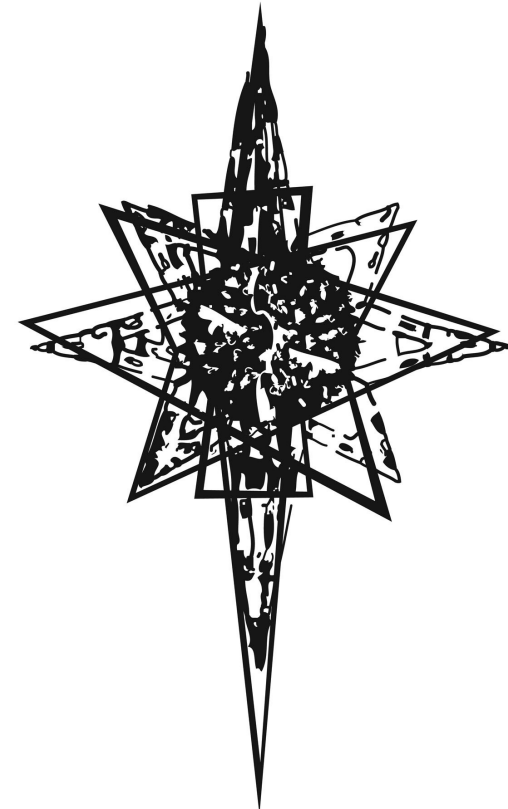
\*Closing Song: "By the Sea of Crystal" LUYH 489

### Worship Participants

Pastor: Carl Bruxvoort ♦ Piano: Zoe Hoekstra ♦ Guitar: Jaren Brue, Laremy DeVries  
Bass: Emilyn Smit ♦ Drums: Caleb Smit ♦ Violin: Kinza Brue ♦ Vocalist: Anna Christians  
Sound: Kayt Frisch ♦ Projection: Micah Goslinga ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

# Epiphany

February 11, 2018



## Epiphany

"We know the word: a moment of piercing awareness, the sudden jolt of understanding. Imagine, then, that moment stretched out over a period of time. This is the season of Epiphany, a season celebrating the revelation of the Savior, the light of the word." (Philip F. Reinders, *Seeking God's Face*). Epiphany began for the church on January 7 as we celebrated the visit of the Magi to the Christ child and continues up to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. From now until Lent, worshipers grow in an awareness of the significance of the entire life of Jesus and prepare for the call to discipleship that will happen in Lent. (adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

## God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;**

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

\*Songs of Praise: "All Creatures of Our God and King" LUYH 551:1,5,6  
"Forever" LUYH 578

\*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song: "Come to Us, Beloved Stranger" LUYH 207:1,2

## We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Immigrants Are a Blessing Litany

Abraham and Sarah did not know whether their visitors meant harm or good, still they opened their tent in welcome, and they were blessed.

From the stranger, we hear the good news of God's covenant love.

**We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.**

Boaz saw in Ruth not a project, but a partner.

From the stranger, we are given the lineage of Christ.

**We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.**

The man lay dying on the Jericho road

until the strange and reviled Samaritan came to his aid, sharing his oil and wine.

From the stranger, we receive help and healing.

**We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.**

When the people of Israel were strangers in Egypt,

only as valuable as the bricks they produced for Pharaoh's economy,

God heard their cry and saved them.

When we are strangers, we come to know a God who frees us.

**We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.**

\*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

Trinitarian Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people. **We are redeemed.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

...Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Institution

...Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

...We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Song: "Come to the Water"

**1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
without money, without price.**

**Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?**

*(continued on next page)*

## We Respond with Thanksgiving

\*Song of Response: "Psalm 126"

- 1. Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;  
Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!**

**Chorus: Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing  
the seeds of Your Kingdom for the day You will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy!**

- 2. The nations will say, "He has done great things!"  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord! (to chorus)**

Words and Music: Isaac Wardell, © 2011 Isaac Wardell

### Offertory Prayer and Offering of our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools to help keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.

## We Celebrate Communion

Here at Covenant we believe that this is not the table of Covenant Christian Reformed Church; it is not the table of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, it is the table of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We therefore invite all who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come to the table to be fed and nourished. We also believe that this is a family meal. If your children have shown an interest in taking communion, please contact your elder who would be happy to talk through that with them. This morning we will come forward to receive the elements.

### Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

**And of our own, we have given you.**

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring wine; **you give your blood.**

We bring our offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.

Christ hides in the face of the stranger,  
reminding us that "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

In the stranger, we can experience the presence of Christ.

**We praise you for the blessing of the stranger.**

We are called in Scripture, again and again,

to welcome the stranger and the many blessings that the stranger may bring.

**For the immigrant, the refugee, the one we do not know,  
we give our thanks and praise.**

**The family of God is worshiping you in many languages,  
and following you in many cultures, all over the world.**

**But the diversity of the family of God**

**has also come right here to this community.**

**May we receive the blessings you bring to us, Lord,  
through the gift of the stranger.**

Prayer of Confession

Song: "Come to Us, Beloved Stranger"

LUYH 207:3

## God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "I Am the Light of the World"

***I am the light of the world, I am the light of the world.***

***Whoever follows me will never walk in the dark,  
will never walk in the dark, but have the light of life.***

Words: John 8:12, Music: June Fischer Armstrong, © 1991 CRC Publications

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38, Acts 17:24-28

p.1510, 1724

Sermon: "A New Harvest Field"

Rev. Carl Bruxvoort