

## The Season of Epiphany

The word **Epiphany** means “to show” or “to make known” or even “to reveal.” Epiphany Sunday is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas. In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than only a day. For many Protestant church traditions, Lake Shore included, the season of Epiphany extends from today until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as “King” and so were the first to “show” or “reveal” Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that this child Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

## COVID-19 Guidelines

1. Mask properly (over mouth and nose) before you enter the building.
2. Sign-in with the ushers when you enter the building. The list will help us with contact tracing in the event someone at the service tests positive for COVID-19.
3. Enter the sanctuary through the door closest to Bishop Drive.
4. Pay attention to social distancing. Spread out in the rows of seats from front to back; the chairs are arranged in groups of 2-3. The front row is 27-feet from the pulpit.
5. Remain seated during the postlude.
6. Do any visiting with each other after worship outside the building.



*Journey of the Magi, James Tissot*

We are a welcoming and affirming community of Christians, attempting to discover, articulate, and embody the meaning of the Gospel in the world today.

We welcome all at Lake Shore because we believe that God’s love knows no bounds.

**For information about becoming a member of Lake Shore, please contact one of our ministers.**



Lake Shore Baptist Church . 5801 Bishop Drive . Waco, Texas 76710  
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### Church Staff

Cindy Fuller, Pianist/Organist	Gordon Lawrence, Maintenance Manager
Louis Garcia, Custodian	Cindy Oates, Director of LSBCC
Brittany Ramirez, Volunteer Interim Minister to Children & Youth	Sarah Ochel, Office Manager
Tom Hanks, College Minister	Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor

Please silence your cell phones during the worship service.

Please recycle your worship guides in the recycling station outside the sanctuary.

Hearing assistance receivers available upon request.

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# The Worship of God

## Epiphany

### January 2, 2022

#### Call to Worship

#### Prelude

“What Star Is This?”  
arr. Robert Graham

#### Meditation of Preparation

This is a map that begins with a star. This is the chart that starts...with an ancient light that has outlasted generations, empires, cultures, wars. Step out, and you will know what the wise who traveled this path before you know: the treasure in this map is buried not at journey’s end but at its beginning. —*Jan Richardson*

#### \*Morning Litany

Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**The Lord rises upon us and Christ’s glory appears throughout the world.**  
The nations come to Christ’s light  
and the kings to the brightness of Christ’s presence.  
**Lift up your eyes and see! They all gather and move toward their God.**  
Magi come from far away, bearing gold and incense,  
singing the praise of God.  
**Arise, shine, for your light has come!**

#### \*Hymn of Light

“Arise Your Light Is Come”  
FESTAL SONG

Arise, your Light is come! The Spirit’s call obey.  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your Light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your Light is come! All you in sorrow born.  
Lift up the brokenhearted ones, and comfort all who mourn.

Arise, your Light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing. God’s love will make us strong.

#### \*Prayer for Epiphany

God of gold, we seek your glory; the richness that transforms dullness  
into vibrant light, your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.  
**God of incense, we offer you our prayer, our spoken and**

**unspeakable longings, our searching for the mystery deep within.**  
God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our sufferings, knowing that  
you chose to be born for us and to bear our pain.  
**In our wealth, in our longing, and in our loss, we embrace you,  
God-with-us, Child of Light.**

#### \*Gospel Reading

Matthew 2.1-12  
This is the gospel of grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### \*Hymn of Meditation

“The First Noel”  
THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields  
where they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold  
winter’s night that was so deep.

*Refrain:* Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth, it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there, it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

#### \*Blessing of Our Gifts

Beckoning God—  
who called the rich to travel toward giving,  
the wise to embrace your folly,  
the powerful to know their own frailty;  
**who gave to strangers a sense of homecoming in an alien land  
and to stargazers true light and vision as they bowed to earth—  
we lay ourselves open to your sign for us.**  
Stir us with holy discontent  
over a world which gives its gifts to those who have plenty already,  
whose talents are obvious, whose power is recognized;  
and help us both to share our resources with those who have little  
and to receive with humility the gifts they bring to us.  
**Rise within us, like a star, and make us restless  
till we journey forth to seek our rest in you.** —*Kate Compston*

#### Offertory

“We Three Kings”  
arr. Heather Sorenson

#### Silence for Reflection

Call it one of the mercies of the road:  
that we see it only by stages as it opens before us,  
as it comes into our keeping step by single step. —*Jan Richardson*

#### Communion Meditation

*Christ’s gift of light and salvation are for the whole world.  
In the spirit of communion with all believers everywhere,  
receive the bread and the cup,  
the gifts of God for the people of God.*

#### \*Hymn of Salvation

What Child Is This  
GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain:* This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

#### \*Blessing for Epiphany

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
**to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among brothers,  
to make music in the heart.**

—*Howard Thurman*

#### Postlude

“March of the Kings”  
arr. Carl Simone