



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

God With Us

8:45 a.m. + January 2, 2022 + Epiphany Sunday

I will be your wise one, led by wisdom and discernment, your star, not mine.
I am a sovereign of my own choices, among your royal priesthood. I offer you my power.
You are the star I follow, with my eye on your light, every day.
I am always seeking, never too complacent to ask, to observe, to discern, to wonder,
looking for your light in this world, in those I meet, in my own dark sky.
I am not deterred by weariness, the unknown, the strangeness, the settledness of others.
I seek the child, the tender, the hope, the small, amid the strong and violent.
I bear valuable gifts. This is the reason I am in this world. I kneel and offer treasure, every day.
I know my quest threatens the powers of might, and I am not afraid, and do not collude with them.
I am not afraid to find another road, always seeking, open to the new. Lead me.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Welcome

Preparing for Worship

from the Iona Community

Into our world as into Mary's womb...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...

Come, Lord Jesus

This is the good news: Christ is coming, and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

Therefore come quickly, Lord.

Song of the Presence

"The Breezes at Dawn"

The breezes at dawn have secrets to tell you, do not go back to sleep.

The heart-door is open and bids you to enter, do not go back to sleep.

The two worlds are waiting. The journey before you. Stay awake.

Stay awake, stay awake, stay awake, stay awake.

Sitting with a Psalm

from Psalms for Praying, Psalm 132

Enter into the Silence, into the Heart of Truth;

For herein lies the Great Mystery where life is ever unfolding.

Herein the Divine Plan is made known, the Plan all are invited to serve.

Listen for the music of the Holy Word in the resounding Silence of the universe.

May balance and harmony be your aim as you are drawn into the Heart of Love.

*Those who follow the way of Love with calm and faith-filled intent,
Know that all is working toward healing and wholeness.
Be not afraid of the Silence, for Wisdom's Voice is heard there!
As you follow the Light, you become gentle and kind, you come to live in the Light.
Children enter the world radiating the Spirit -- learn from them of innocence and simplicity;
Learn to co-operate with the unseen realms, to see beyond the veil.
Wise are those who learn through silence; learn then to listen well.
For beyond the silence and stillness within,
you will come to know a profound and dazzling Silence --
Herein lies the music of the spheres, the harmony of creation.
Enter into the Holy Temple of your soul, converse with the Beloved in sweet communion.
Blessings of the Great Silence be with you as you help to rebuild the heart of the world with love!*

Faith on the Journey

"You Lead Me Home"

*I trust you have guided the road that I travel,
Although I have been unaware.
So I'll keep believing though life may unravel,
Yes I will choose faith amid fear.
For there is a place that I long to return to,
That calms my desire to roam.
And so as I journey it's you that I turn to,
Believing you're leading me home.*

*You lead me home, by paths unknown.
You lead me home, by ways unfamiliar.
Wherever I turn, still you are there,
A compassionate friend when I choose to stray.
Leading me home by another way.*

The Morning Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Our Epiphany Song

"As with Gladness Men of Old" v. 1

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.*

The Way of the Magi

Our Epiphany Song

"As with Gladness Men of Old" v. 2

*As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy-seat.*

Centering in the Silence

During these 5 minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. Descend into this Silence, into this Darkness. There is nothing you need to do. Just let go. Let be. Relax. Breathe deeply. Sense your body. If it helps, use a breath prayer to help you descend into this dark silence, such as "Your Kingdom" (inhale), "Come" (exhale).

Our Epiphany Song

"As with Gladness Men of Old" v. 3

*As their precious gifts they laid, at thy manger roughly made;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.*

The Way of Herod

Prayer for Ourselves and Others

- *Without judgment, simply acknowledge the "Herod-aspects" of your own life.*
- *Think of one or two people you have impacted by Herod-like behavior, such as controlling, fearful, etc.*
- *Pray healing for these persons you have impacted . . . and healing for yourself.*
- *Pray for persons around the world who are injured, broken, or put to death by the Herod-behavior of others.*

Our Epiphany Song

"As with Gladness Men of Old" v. 4

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow Way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.*

Holy Communion

*We have come asking for the Child – Wondering where Love might be born,
Seeking the joy that might satisfy our hunger and thirst, finding our way on this everyday pilgrimage.*

We have come to this place where wise ones worship the newborn king.

We have come to this place called Bethlehem.

To this place where our hearts rise like yeast.

To this place where we meet our newborn hope.

To this place where we taste our deepest joy.

Bethlehem. Lehem meaning "Bread." Bethel meaning "House of God." There is something here that will satisfy our hunger and thirst. At this table, the Bread of Heaven comes to us and our Cup overflows. No matter how long we have wandered, here we are nourished and our hearts arise.

In this Bread and in this Cup, God has made a house at this table.

God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places.

God comes to be with us, the Beloved makes His home with us.

Here, the two worlds become one, heaven and earth are married. Now and always.

Holy Spirit, come into this Bread and this Cup. Transform these ordinary objects as you change our hearts to shape and form your world with the joy you promise. Pour your grace upon us, so we overflow with your love. It is with this expectation that we come to the table, to taste and see that the LORD is here.

This is the crossroads. May we stay awake and move to face the Light.

This is the Ancient Way. Through it we are returning to our true Source and Home in You.

Yet our return is long and takes us out upon a path where we will struggle with the night within and turn it into blessedness.

So help us to remember how a newborn baby might grow into a little child who would one day meet with His beloved companions in an upper room...

Faith on the Journey

"As With Gladness Men of Old" v5

*In the heavenly country bright need thy no created light,
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun that goes not down;
There for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.*

Blessing for the Journey

from Isaiah 60

*Arise, be enlightened, for your light has come,
And the Glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.*

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the peoples;

*But the Lord will arise upon you,
And the Glory will be seen upon you.*

Nations shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

*You shall see and be radiant;
Your heart shall tremble and enlarge,*

The abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
The wealth of the nations shall come to you.

*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 bear Good News, the praises of the Lord.

Song of the Presence

*The breezes at dawn have secrets to tell you, do not go back to sleep.
The heart-door is open and bids you to enter, do not go back to sleep.
The two worlds are waiting. The journey before you. Stay awake.
Stay awake, stay awake, stay awake, stay awake.*

"The Breezes at Dawn"

Receiving a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: www.TheCenterFCS.org.