

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (PCA)

BIBLE BELIEVING † CHRIST CENTERED † GRACE FILLED † GOSPEL DRIVEN



Worship for the Lord's Day

Epiphany of the Lord

January 3rd, 2021 • 10:45 A.M.

Trinity Fellowship Church exists to glorify God by equipping a community of believers to worship God and be witnesses of Him in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

– Matthew 2:10

Present among the figurines in the nativity crèches found everywhere at Christmastime are usually three regal men bearing gifts. As we know, these kings are supposed to represent the wise men.

Unfortunately, this depiction of the wise men takes liberties with the text. Matthew never tells us how many wise men come to see the Messiah. The tradition of three wise men probably comes from the three different gifts mentioned in Matthew 2:11. Moreover, the first gospel does not say the Magi are kings. This idea goes back to the church father Tertullian (around 200 AD) and is likely due to his reading of passages like Psalm 68:31 and Isaiah 49:7.

Who, then, are the wise men? Precise identification is difficult, but we do know they are “from the east” of Judea (Matthew 2:1). Persia, Babylon, and Arabia are all possible countries of origin, with Babylon the likeliest option since contact with its large Jewish community would have prompted the Magi to come looking for a king in Jerusalem. The Greek term for “Magi” refers to a group interested in predicting the future via dream interpretation, magic, and other methods, such as astrology, which explains their interest in the star.

Apparently the star at first directs them only to Palestine, and they go to Jerusalem to find the child because the capital city is a logical first place to start searching for a newborn king. Herod calls the wise men to his court and then sends them out to find the baby. We know that his desire to worship the Christ is a lie, but the magi are ignorant of Herod’s machinations, and they go forth in search of the child. After seeing Herod, the star leads them to where the child is living. This prompts exceedingly great rejoicing; seeing the star has confirmed their mission.

The wise men and their mission are highly significant. God promised Israel that their restoration and redemption after exile would be accompanied by an influx of Gentile nations into the covenant community (Isaiah 11:10). Though motivated partly by superstition, the wise men are the first Gentiles to seek out Jesus, and they serve to demonstrate that God fulfills all His promises.

Celebration of Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

*During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation
for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary.
(Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)*

† Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1–3

Leader: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 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. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

† Hymn of Praise

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hymns of Grace

N^o 228

† Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession

John 3:19

Leader: *The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Unison: Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Illumined by your Word and sacrament, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 1:5–7

Leader: *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

† Hymn of Trust

Hymns of Grace

Joy Has Dawned

Nº 237

Prayers of the People

*God calls us to be a praying people.
Let us join in prayer, offering our praise,
thanksgiving, and intercession to God.*

Offertory

As with Gladness Men of Old

*Our offering is an act of worship in which we express our gratitude and reliance on God.
For those of you who are guests with us today, giving is not obligatory.
We are eager to share with you more about our church and its ministry
and to invite you to participate with us as you are called by God.
Tithes and offerings may be placed in the plates in the narthex,
or you may give online at trinityfellowshipcca.org/give,
or by texting GIVE to 501-456-4896.*

† **Doxology**

Hymns of Grace

N^o 440

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Reading of Scripture

Mark 2:1–12

ESV Pew Bible

p. 837

Sermon

“Your Sins Are Forgiven”

Mr. Jay Sawrie

† **Hymn of Preparation**

The Communion Hymn (vv. 1–3)

Hymns of Grace

N^o 343

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We welcome all baptized Christians who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive holy communion with us.

If you are not able to receive communion, please use this time to meditate on the prayer found on page 6.

We serve gluten-free bread and your choice of
grape juice (colored cups, outer ring) or wine (clear cups, inner rings)†

† **Hymn of Response**

The Communion Hymn (v. 4)

Hymns of Grace

N^o 343

† As the elements are distributed, please wait until all are served so that we may partake together.

† Benediction

† Recessional Hymn

Hymns of Grace

Benediction (v. 2)

Nº 438

May this peace which passes understanding,
and this grace which makes us what we are,
And the fellowship of His communion
make us one in spirit and in heart.

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n;
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain,
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

Postlude

*As you leave the sanctuary today, may you know the hope to which God has called you,
experience the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
and trust his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

*Please help us love our community by recycling your unneeded bulletins as you leave.
A recycling bin is located by the door in the narthex.*

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter ▶ The January Newsletter is now available. Hardcopies of the newsletter can be found in the narthex.

Sunday School Schedule ▶ Sunday School resumes next Sunday, January 10th, at 9:30 A.M.

Fellowship Lunch ▶ Our monthly Fellowship Lunch will be next Sunday, January 10th, following the worship service. The Westminster Small Group is responsible for setting up for the Fellowship Lunch.

Small Groups ▶ Small Groups will meet next Sunday, January 10th, following the Fellowship Lunch.

Prayer and Praise Service ▶ There will be a Prayer and Praise Service on Sunday, January 31st, at 5:00 P.M.

Bible Reading Plans ▶ Bible Reading Plans for 2021 are available on the narthex table.



Women's Bible Study ▶ The Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 20th at the church. The morning group will meet at 9:00 and the evening group will meet at 6:30. Contact Katie DeVries for more information.

Men's Prayer Group ▶ The Men's Prayer Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 A.M. at the church. Contact Ron Plate for more information.

Men's Zoom Group ▶ The Men's Zoom Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 12:00 P.M. via Zoom. Contact Brad DeVries for more information.

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MISSIONARIES

Austin Braasch RUF at Arkansas State; Jonesboro
Dan Anderson Central Hope Church; Little Rock
Del Farris MNA Ministry to State; Colorado
Michelle Hill CRU/FamilyLife; Little Rock
Mike and Eli Sabin MTW; Guam
Tom and Karen Mirabella MTW; Chiba, Japan
Union Rescue Mission Little Rock



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