



Mt Vernon UMC

Epiphany of the Lord

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12 (NIV)

ENTRANCE

GATHERING¹

Welcome to a time of reunion, respite, and renewal.

GREETINGS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Christ reveals himself to us, even today.

Praise the Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER²

O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.

Enable us who know your presence with us, so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

245. The First Noel

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Arise! Shine!

**God's light has come to reveal The Way
in this New Year.**

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Laurence Hall Stookey. Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Arise! Shine!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Arise! Shine!

**God's light penetrates the darkness
that covers the world.**

Arise! Shine!

**Nations shall come to God's light and kings
to the brightness of God's dawn.**

**Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord
has risen upon us.**

HYMNS

I Saw the Light

254. We Three Kings of Orient Are

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-3

"The Lord's glory will appear over you."

60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the
LORD has risen upon you.

60:2

For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the
peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his
glory will appear over you.

60:3

Nations shall come to your light and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.

RESPONSE

70. Glory Be to the Father

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

*"ahead of them went the star
that they had seen in the east."*

2:1

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,

2:2

asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage."

2:3

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,

2:4

and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

2:6

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

2:7

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

2:8

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

2:9

When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

2:10

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

2:11

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2:12

And having been warned in a dream not to return to
Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE

PEACE & OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN 2006. Lord God, Almighty (v1,3)

SENDING FORTH

BLESSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14).

CANDLES 318. Christ Is Alive (v1,5)

*Go into the world, the body of Christ redeemed by His
blood, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, to praise the
Father and love His people.*

In Search of Wisdom

In 2025, we will focus on the Book of Proverbs. Inspired by Joyce Meyer's *In Search of Wisdom*, for 31 Sundays we will consider each book of Proverbs, in turn. Books are available in the narthex or you may purchase them on Amazon.

Jan 19	Prov. 1	Apr 27	Prov. 12	Aug 03	Prov. 21
Jan 26	Prov. 2	May 04	Prov. 13	Aug 10	Prov. 22
Feb 02	Prov. 3	May 11	Prov. 31	Aug 31	Prov. 23
Feb 16	Prov. 4	May 18	Prov. 14	Sep 07	Prov. 24
Feb 23	Prov. 5	Jun 08	Prov. 15	Sep 14	Prov. 25
Mar 02	Prov. 6	Jun 15	Prov. 16	Sep 14	Prov. 26
Mar 09	Prov. 7	Jun 22	Prov. 17	Oct 05	Prov. 27
Mar 23	Prov. 8	Jun 29	Prov. 18	Oct 12	Prov. 28
Mar 25	Prov. 9	Jul 20	Prov. 19	Oct 19	Prov. 29
Mar 30	Prov. 10	Jul 27	Prov. 20	Oct 26	Prov. 30
Apr 06	Prov. 11				

Ministry & Discipleship Opportunities

Helping Hands: Soup, Crackers, TP, \$\$	Today!
Play practice during Sunday School and after church	Today!
Christmas Caroling	Today!
Children's Program	12/24
Christmas Eve Worship	5pm, 12/24

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Travis Sherman, Mason Drollinger, Tracy Bailen
Tom & Cheryl Blackburn

For more information about these and other activities, check your email for *This Week at Mt. Vernon*. If you don't receive *This Week at Mt. Vernon*, please let us know.

Do you prefer using an electronic version of the bulletin? You can view this week's bulletin at <https://tinyurl.com/4h8tzuyp>. If you use the electronic version, please let Pastor Rob know.



God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught

Learn together of God's love and grace

Serve others by using our God-given gifts and talents

Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (~~217-751-4400~~, pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).

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