

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1 - 6

God manifests God's light to guide all in our walking.

Psalms 72:1 – 2, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, and 12 – 13.

Every nation on earth will adore you Lord.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6.

Paul recognizes all are co-heirs and co-partners.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1 – 2.

God manifests God's glory to the gentile astrologers whose hearts were open to God's Light and Word.

“Manifest God's light”

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

What a privilege and an honor it is to be asked to break open God's word for us this weekend, the Epiphany of our Lord, or God's self manifestation to us. This is one of the oldest Feasts celebrated in our Church. Initially the celebration of the birth of the Christ was incorporated into this celebration especially with the exchange of Gifts. Also included was the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and the Wedding feast at Cana, all the major self manifestations of God as God physically became one with us. God with us, God's greatest gift to us, I like to call it Grace. Now I am charged to bring that Gift to LIGHT in my world, you see God is not only a God of the past but the present as well! Pope Francis calls it a “Holy Longing to God” because we as believers know this in our hearts. It also keeps us alert to the face of every attempt to reduce and empower our life. Taking this seriously I (and perhaps you too) need to accept this grace, this gift, from our God and embrace it full heartedly and challenge injustice and violence wherever we find it. This is a very transformative feast for us.

Earlier in the week, I was reading something, in NCR I think, and I looked up and said to Becky our Church is really a male dominated institution. She looked at me and said “really?” We both laughed and I said, “all jokes aside, what if the magi were three women?” She then said she had just come upon a great poem that spoke to that idea. It was so appropriate I want to share it with you.

Poet Jan Richardson writes:



Wise Women also came.

The fire burned in their wombs long before they saw the flaming star in the sky. They walked in shadows, trusting the path would open under the light of the moon.

Wise women also came, seeking no directions, no permissions from any king. They came by their own authority, their own desire, their own longing. They came in quiet, spreading no rumors, sparking no fears to lead to innocents' slaughter, to their sister Rachel's inconsolable lamentations.

Wise women also came, and they brought useful gifts: water for labor's washing, fire for warm illumination, a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came, at least three of them, holding Mary in the labor, crying out with her in the birth pangs, breathing ancient blessings into her ear.

Wise women also came, and they went, as wise women always do, home a different way.

In our Epiphany dreams all of our gifts, each and every one of us, get laid or placed at the feet of this child, not only in Bethlehem but in all cities, towns, and villages of the world. It is a very dramatic feast: a missionary feast in many ways! It is a message to the whole wide world: God is with me/us: Emmanuel! If we do not proclaim it – our children will be left to the Herods of our world. Let's (you and I) follow that star and maybe, just maybe, we will find the arrival of peace, harmony and justice in our world and in our Church.

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.