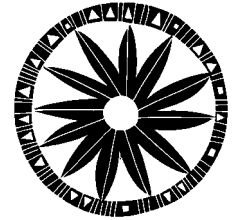


Epiphany 2020: Revealing God's love through sharing our gifts January 12 - February 16



In a magic trick, a good book or a TV makeover show, **the reveal** brings to light something delightful and unexpected. In this Epiphany season after Advent, we are on the other side of the historic reveal that brought Jesus into the world. His birth, life, death and resurrection were revealed first to his family and followers, and then to the people of his day, before being revealed to following generations as the story is retold. The story of Christ continues to be revealed in us and to us.

During Advent, we reflected on the *way where this is no way*. The last of those making a way where there was none were the three Magi (or were there four?) who sought out the holy family to present their gifts to Jesus. Social scientist Mark Chupp says, "You can wrap up something in a box and put a bow on it, but that doesn't make it a gift. What makes it a gift? Giving it to someone."

Over the next six weeks of this Epiphany season, we'll reflect on the gifts we have to offer each other and to the world. As people of faith, particularly as Anabaptists, we're sometimes hesitant to think of ourselves as having something to offer, as having gifts that may be useful within our congregation, our community and the broader world. But 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 makes it clear that through Christ we all have been given gifts: "I continually thank God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Jesus Christ, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

In the coming weeks, we'll hear stories of things people have offered, have given to others in hopes of helping. We'll reflect on those as we read the lectionary texts from Matthew about being the light of the world, and Micah about doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.



We urge you to think about what it is you have to offer, however humble, as a gift to others. And how offering that gift may bond us more closely in our faith community and reveal God's love to others. We will be hearing about some of these gifts during children's time each week.

During second hour this series we'll be trying something new: We will have four weeks of age-based adult Sunday School classes! Under-40, 40-55, 56-70 and 70+. Each group will discuss the same questions and have a facilitator and a note taker. We'll be discussing gifts, hospitality, communion and privileges of children at Assembly. Our hope is for people to learn to know each other better in a semi-structured setting and have some useful conversation about congregational life and worship.

Epiphany Planning Committee: Marshall King, Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Michael Miller, Anna Yoder Schlabach



| Date | Text | Worship Leader | Preacher | Other notes | Second hour |
|------|--|---------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| 1/12 | Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17 | Anna Yoder Schlabach | Marshall King | Communion CDC blessing | Congregational Meeting |
| 1/19 | Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:1; 1 Corinthians 2:16 | Michael Miller | Glen Miller | Circle of grace in Children's Sunday School Classes | Age based Adult Sunday School classes focused on Gifts |
| 1/26 | Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23 | Small group Beta | Beverly Lapp | Surprise luncheons Bethany Christian Choir | Age based Adult Sunday School classes focused on Hospitality |
| 2/2 | Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-33; Matthew 5:1-12 | Small group Well Seasoned | Kara Shields | | Age based Adult Sunday School classes focused on Communion |
| 2/9 | Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20 | Marlette Gomez Wengered | TBD | Fellowship meal | Age based Adult Sunday School classes focused on Privileges of Children at Assembly |
| 2/16 | Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37 | MYF | Patrick Farran | | TBD |