



Epiphany Worship Resources

Scripture Passage: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Call to Worship:

Today we welcome the magi into our Christmas story.

A story of wonder and light, of angels, shepherds, virgin births.

In the midst of darkness, they chose to follow the light.

Their story gives us hope that God still sends light for us to follow.

We come today knowing we too are on a journey.

May we be faithful followers of the light of God so that we too can be bearers of hope and justice for a dark and lonely world.

Opening Unison Prayer:

God of love, from generation to generation, across nations, cultures and beliefs, we see evidence of you. Let your light continue to shine in our hearts and help us to make a reality Your desire for a world filled with justice and peace. That, just as the Three Wise Men of the East recognized the call and invitation made by Your Star, also we must be willing to listen for your voice, follow you and give you the best of our lives. May that light ever shine, and may it lead us always to You. And may we shine in the radiance of your glory. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

As we greet the magi and their unique and extravagant gifts, we are reminded that their giving was not as a response to a need, but instead a sign of their praise. Their generous reaction to the presence of God inspires us to give in unexpected ways too. Much like the magi brought their best gifts to Jesus, we are invited to do the same.

Offertory Prayer:

God of Light. We take these gifts and present them with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Traditional/Contemporary Global Praise Song Suggestions:

De Tierra Lejana Venimos (From a Distant Home), UMH 243
We Would See Jesus UMH 256, CLUW 168
Arise, Shine For Your Light Has Come, TFWS 2005
Jesus the Light of the World, W&S 3056
We are Marching in the Light of God, AAHH 164
There's a Star in the East on Christmas Morn, AAHH 212/213
Light of the World, Lauren Daigle, CCLI 7023299
Hope Was Born This Night, Ben McDonald, David Frey, CCLI 5873296
Take Me to the King, Tamela Mann, Kirk Franklin



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Benediction/Blessing:

The God of our salvation has called us from darkness into the eternal light of Christ. So, go from this place walking and shining in that blessed light. May it brighten every room you walk in, every conversation you have, and every person you encounter, now and forevermore. In the name of Jesus, the hope of our salvation. Amen.

Additional Components*:

Great Thanksgiving Prayer

The pastor stands behind the Lord's table.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and faithful and hope-filled,
in all things to give thanks and praise to our Loving God,
The one who has created us and created all.
In the beginning, you spoke light into being,
you brought order to darkness that it might not overcome creation,
and you created us in your image, called us good, and blessed us with abundant life.
When we turned away, you gave us direction, and joined us in our journey.
After Moses killed an Egyptian and hid himself away in a foreign land,
you met him in the dazzling light of a burning bush
and sent him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.
You guided your people by the light of fire and cloud,
taking them an unexpected way in your holy wisdom.
You gave us gifts that we are blessed to give back to you in covenant-love:
frankincense and myrrh to adorn your temple,
gifts of speech and song to sing your praise,
and persistent hope in your promises of faithfulness.
You spoke these promises through your prophets
who boldly called your people to move in new and changed ways,
to seek justice and walk in your light,
and to await the coming Messiah with faithful anticipation.
And so, with your people in every nation, and the whole company of heaven,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn (saying/singing):

The pastor lowers hands.



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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor raises hands.

You are holy, our God, and blessed, God-made-flesh,
you humbled yourself in the person of Jesus of Nazareth,
that in him, you might be God with us, for us.
Just as you led the wise men by a star to the birthplace of Christ,
so would Christ himself become a light, leading all people to you.
Just as the magi offered their precious gifts to the child in the manger,
so would Christ offer himself as the most precious gift of love to all.
Just as the kings obeyed your warning to travel home by a different road,
so Christ obediently walked the road to Calvary, that we might find our home in him.
By Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,
you created your church, saving us from sin and death,
and entering into relationship with us anew by water and Spirit.

The pastor holds hands, palm down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.

On the night he was born, Jesus brought new hope to the world
and on the night before his betrayal, he promised that hope would be ours always.
Taking bread, he thanked you, broke it and shared it with friends, even those who would betray and deny him, saying,
"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.
In the same way he took the cup, also, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood."
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The pastor raises hands.

As we remember the boundless love of your acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves as gifts in gratitude,
our lives as holy sacrifices, stars twinkling with the brilliance of Christ's light,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

The pastor holds hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.



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Holy Spirit, come be with us here and now.
Be upon these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them the body and blood of Christ for us,
that, nourished by them,
we may go out and feed the world.

The pastor raises hands.

God, unite us in your Spirit with the infant king,
with all your people in every nation,
that we might give generously of our gifts in ministry to the world,
following where you lead, even when you take us in new directions.
May we be relentless bearers of hope and makers of justice in a world that desperately needs both,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we break bread together at the heavenly table.

Through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we, your church, give you all glory and honor, almighty God, now and always.

Amen.



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