



# Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road  
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410- 666-2180

[sherwoodcokeysville.org](http://sherwoodcokeysville.org)

January 5, 2025  
The Epiphany

10 am  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



## THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

*How bright appears the Morning Star - Johann Pachelbel*

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN - 117

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
odors of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favor secure,  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*, #117 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

BCP pg. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE - 497

*How bright appears the Morning Star (v. 1)*

1 How bright appears the Morning  
Star,  
with mercy beaming from afar;  
the host of heaven rejoices;  
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!  
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!

We, too, will lift our voices:  
Jesus, Jesus!  
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,  
draw thou near us;  
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.

**12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that

was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

SEQUENCE HYMN - 119

1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger-bed;  
there to bend the knee before

*As with gladness men of old (vs. 1-3)*

him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek the mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

*Following the sermon, let us pause for a period of silent reflection on God's holy word.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP pg. 358

*Said by all, standing as you are able.*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: Mark+, Peggy, Jim,  
Kristofer+, Rich, Suzanne and her family, Kevin M., Faith, and Hannah.

We give thanks the blessings of this life, including for those celebrating birthdays,  
especially Angela Traskey, as well as anniversaries.

Give to the departed eternal rest. We especially pray for and give thanks for the  
life of Pamela Alvarez, daughter of David Pindell. We pray for and give thanks for  
the life of President Jimmy Carter. We also pray for the victims of the New Orleans  
terrorist attack and their families.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayer*

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant  
that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people will greet one another with a sign of God's peace. Don't forget to show the sign of peace to our friends who are worshiping with us virtually.*

**Please be seated.**

*We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference. Give online ([sherwoodcockeysville.org/give](http://sherwoodcockeysville.org/give)) or if you would prefer, mail your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville, 21030. Thank you!*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Mother Nancy following the service. To receive either bread or wine is considered full communion. You may receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer; please indicate to the minister your need. To receive the wine, please assist the Chalicist by holding the base of the chalice (cup) and guiding it to your lips. If you are not baptized or would prefer not to receive communion for any personal or religious reason, you are still invited to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing from the priest. (Please place your arms across your chest to indicate your desire to receive a blessing.) Above all, remember that all are welcome here at Sherwood!

## THE OFFERTORY

*The people are seated while an offering is collected to support God's mission here at Sherwood Church and in the world.*



← PayPal



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## OFFERTORY HYMN – 98

1 (ALL) Unto us a boy is born!  
The King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.

2 (WOMEN) Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see

*Unto us a boy is born!*

that he all men surpasses.

3 (MEN) Herod then with fear was filled;  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
at Bethlehem in his fury.

4 (WOMEN) Now may Mary's son,  
who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.

5 (ALL) Unto us a boy is born!  
The King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own we have given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B - BCP pg. 367

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - S130

*Holy, holy, holy*

Setting by Franz Peter Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.*

Therefore according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP pg. 364

*The Celebrant says*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### AGNUS DEI - S164

*Lamb of God*

Setting by Franz Peter Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant offers an invitation to Holy Communion. For those who are not able to be present for communion, please pray the Spiritual Communion Prayer while communion is distributed.*

### A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988): In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and*

*strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN – 124

*What star is this, that beams so bright*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more beautiful than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King,  
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

2 True spake the prophet from afar  
who told the rise of Jacob's star;  
and eastern sages with amaze  
upon the wondrous token gaze.

3 The guiding star above is bright;  
within them shines a clearer light,  
and leads them on with power benign  
to seek the Giver of the sign.

4 O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek thy face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of thy light to use.

5 To God the Father, heavenly Light,  
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise  
our equal and unceasing praise.

*What star is this, with beams so bright*, #124 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Chandler (1807-1876), alt. Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Cowley Carol Book*, 1902.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg. 366

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant pronounces a blessing over the people, and the people respond, **Amen.***

RECESSIONAL HYMN - 109

*The first Nowell (vs. 1-3, 6)*

1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*Refrain*

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

*The first Nowell the angel did say, #109 from The Hymnal 1982* — Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: The First Nowell, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc.

THE DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our  
commitment to our mission as a congregation:

**God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all,  
impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions.**

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

**Don't forget to return your name tag  
to the file box at the back of the church.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worship Participants**

Celebrant: The Rev. Nancy H.

Hennessey

Music Director: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lector: Sheila Fitzgerald

Acolyte: Dylan Barrett

Ushers: Karyn Galetto,

Cindy Haraughty

Broadcast Engineer: Robin Rouleau

Altar Guild: Mary Doyle, Dolly

Guarini, Bronwyn Strong, Sandy

Thompson

**Lay Participants for Sunday, January 12**

Lectors: Loretta Cunninghame,  
Cindy Haraughty  
Acolyte: Dylan Barrett  
Ushers: Jack Barrett, Stephanie Everts

Broadcast Engineer: Robin Rouleau  
Altar Guild: Mary Doyle, Dolly Guarini,  
Bronwyn Strong, Sandy Thompson  
Hospitality: Second Sunday Soup

*A very special welcome to visitors and newcomers! Thank you for joining us for worship. If you are seeking a church home and are interested in learning more about Sherwood Church, or if you would like to receive weekly emails and announcements from our parish, please contact Carey Mednick at [sherwoodparish@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodparish@gmail.com). Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel.*

*Please remember those on our parish prayer list with ongoing needs: Shannon T., Sally, Shannon, Joyce, Christine, Kendall, Sarah, Gail, Steve W., Michelle, Danny, Debbie R., Marian, John M., Paige, Marissa, Frances T., David D., Hannah, Jessica, Ruth, Don M., Joe, Andrea, Joe & Maria, and the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza.*

### *This Week @ Sherwood*

#### **Sunday**

Confirmation Class, noon @ Panera  
Timonium  
Pickersgill Eucharist, 2 pm  
Casa de Oración Hossana, 4-6 pm

#### **Monday**

Clean Water Walkthrough with  
Underwood and Associates  
Office Closed

#### **Wednesday**

Mother Nancy's Office Hours,  
10 am-3 pm

### **Permit Process Completed!**

We are happy to announce that the Baltimore County permitting process has been completed and Underwood and Associates will begin to move forward with the Clean Water Project after their last pre-construction meeting with the County on January 6. More details to follow. Thank you for your patience!

## **Did You Know This About Epiphany?**

Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies," of Jesus' divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The day was called "The Feast of Lights." Celebration of the Son of God replaced celebration of the sun. Baptisms were done, and a season of preparation was instituted. It was later called Advent. -- from the *Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*

## **The Three Magi Have Arrived!**

This Sunday we will celebrate the Epiphany and remember the Magi who visited baby Jesus. The three wise men will finally join all the other figures who played a role in welcoming the Christ child into the world. There are various traditions surrounding Epiphany, one of the customs is the chalking of one's door mantel with 20+C+M+B+25. The numbers represent the year and the letter the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The letters are also an abbreviation for the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house."

## **Upcoming Youth Activities:**

*Confirmation Class*, Sunday, January 5 @ 12 noon

*Northern Baltimore Youth Gathering*, Sunday, January 12 @ Sherwood/Faith Lutheran Middle School 4-5:15 pm/Shared Dinner 5:15-5:45 pm/High School 5:45-7 pm

We will have a White Elephant gift exchange (\$5 limit) and learn about Epiphany and the Magi who visit baby Jesus.

**Please Take a Christmas Plant:** After the service today if you would like to take a bit of Christmas home with you, please do! Choose one of the beautiful flowers that has adorned our sanctuary during the twelve days of Christmas. Those who donated to the Christmas flower fund are especially encouraged.