



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY: THE FEAST OF LIGHTS
JANUARY 4, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Through the ages light has been the symbol of progress and truth. The Feast of Lights, depicting the spread of the Christian gospel, had its origin in the Eastern Church very early, much earlier than the observance of Christmas by the Western Church. This service inaugurates the great missionary season of the Church and proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God, and the true light of the world.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Presider: Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.
The Gentiles shall come to thy Light and Kings to the brightness of thy rising.
The Lord has manifested forth His glory;
People: **O come, let us adore Him.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #110 (*All Standing*) (*In the Blue Hymnal*) *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into a high mountain
O Thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift thy voice with strength.

Lift up thy voice with strength.
Say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God.

Arise; shine for thy light is come.
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

What shall his name be called?
**His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

Presider: The Lord has manifested forth His glory;
People: **O come, let us adore Him.**

HYMN #100 (vv. 1-2, 4) (*In the Blue Hymnal*) *Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

THE LESSON (*All seated*) *Luke 2:1-20*

HYMN #111 (*kneeling*) (*In the Blue Hymnal*) *Silent night, holy night*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *(All standing)*

Presider and People:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

A PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Presider and People:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, with the brightness of your holy light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY

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.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

PRESENTATION HYMN #112 (v. 4) (All standing) **What can I give Him?**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him give my heart.*

THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO THE GENTILES

SCRIPTURE (All seated) *John 1:1-5, 9-14*

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIGHTED

HYMN #117 (In the Blue Hymnal) **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning**

SCRIPTURE (seated) *Matthew 2:1-11*

(The congregation will remain seated during the following two hymns.)

HYMN #128 (congregation vv. 1&5 - choir vv. 2-4, all sing the refrain) **We three kings**

THE MAGI RECEIVE THE LIGHT

HYMN #115 (In the Blue Hymnal) **What Child is This?**

SCRIPTURE *Matthew 10:2-14*

THE APOSTLES CANDLES ARE LIGHTED

Since the days of the twelve Apostles, the apostolic light has been passed down through succeeding generations of Christians through the ministry of lay persons, bishops, priests, deacons, and other ministers.

(Peter, Andrew, James & John, the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.)

THE LAYPERSONS', BISHOPS', PRIESTS', AND DEACONS' CANDLES ARE LIGHTED

AT THIS TIME THE OFFICIANT, THE WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY COME FORWARD WITH
THEIR CANDLES TO RECEIVE THE LIGHT FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Officiant then says:

"Go ye therefore into all the world, and carry the Gospel to every creature."

THE PEOPLE RECEIVE THE LIGHT

(As the Anthem/ organ voluntary plays The Vestry carries the Light to the people.)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light - harm. by J. S. Bach

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS *(standing)*

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May Christ's bright star in heaven bring you to humility and worship, bring you to look upon God at work. **Amen.**

May Christ's bright star enlighten your mind and heart as you strive for equality, justice and kindness in the world. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand

CLOSING HYMN #124

(In the Blue Hymnal)

What star is this, with beams so bright

DISMISSAL As you leave this place may you carry the Light of Christ into the world.
Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex.

The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

OFFICIANT

Staley Nance

LECTORS

Kristi Allred

Wes Allred

Kathie Goodman

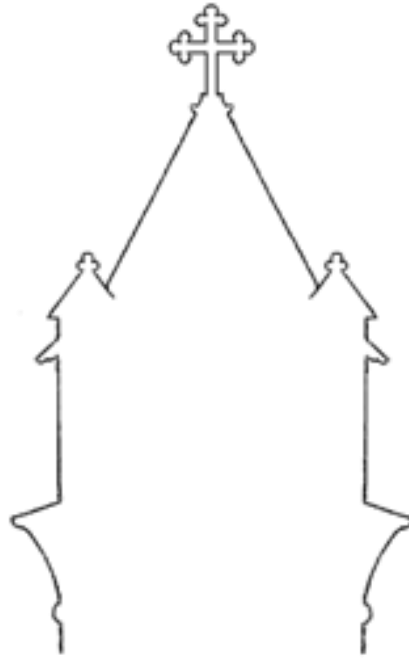
Jim Nance

MAGI

Miles Cleckley

Brent Welborn

Fisher Welborn



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234
phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
www.gracelexingtonnc.org



The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Summer Blackburn, Youth Leader
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

2027

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for January is Bright Carter.