

January 2006
Epiphany Experience

Dear Theophilus,

The sun is returning! The days of darkness are beginning to subside. Light will once again come to the world. It is a time of hope and assurance that God remains with us.

Epiphany is the name we attach to this annual phenomenon. It literally means "to show," or "to make known" or "to reveal." It takes on different meanings and celebrated at different times depending upon the tradition. In the Latin and Spanish culture and some places in Europe it is known as Three Kings Day since the Magi were the first to visit and bring gifts to the Christ child, thus "revealing" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

In the Protestant Church, Epiphany is observed on January 6, placing it immediately after the Twelve Days of Christmas. While Presbyterians observe only a single day, other traditions make it an entire season reaching all the way to Ash Wednesday.

Usually on the Sunday closest to Epiphany we place as many candles as we can on the communion table to signify the light that comes into the world, the light we know as Jesus Christ. We remember the mission of the church to reach out to others and "show" them Jesus by seeking the healing of divisions of prejudice and injustice that so often separate God's children.

At LCPC we have a Twelfth Night Party, held for years at the home of Bob and Nancy Foulds, that celebrates Christian fellowship, complete with food, carols, and the crowning of a King and Queen. An invitation is extended to you to join us Saturday, January 7, 2006, at 7:00 pm. Let the Foulds know you are coming. A sign up sheet is in the Foyer.

Thus, a new year begins. May it be one of friendship and caring, showing the love of Christ to one another and to the world, making known the wonder of God's love that lifts the darkness and lets the light shine again on our lives.

May you live in that light!

Harry