

January 6-7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord – Little Christmas

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-6

Matthew 2:1-12

How many times have we NOT seen what was right in front of us? How often do we ONLY see what we expect to see? The routines of our life certainly provide reliable stability but they may inadvertently sap our attentiveness to what might be new, different or unusual. Traversing the same roadways to and from work, to and from Vons, Ralph's or Whole Foods, to and from the theater, favorite eateries, dry cleaners or wherever, we see what we expect to see...but remain unaware of what may be occurring one street over, in either direction. On the occasion of Epiphany Weekend, we prick our minds to be alert to the spiritual elixir of God's unexpected surprises....and, most importantly, grace hidden within unexpected, sometimes unsettling, challenging and different experiences or people. Granted, modern day epiphanies can be highly unsettling to those who cling tightly to ancient doctrines and absolute certainty about their lives. Epiphany Weekend is a parting gift before we move away from Christmas, a reminder that the surprises, wonders, graces, love, strengths and presence of God are not limited to the Nativity crèche...they continue to surround us in our daily lives...as long as we are willing to risk disappointment by continually looking and seeking. The Magi followed a 'star', seeking what they did not know. So too, in 2018, the Holy Spirit will strive to lead each of us to become whom we are not yet. Who we are today is not who we will be on December 31st....and on December 31st we should certainly not be the same people as who we are reading this, today. Epiphanies, big and small, will be responsible for the transformation....our task is to SEE more than just what we want to see and to LOOK for the unexpected.

As the Christmas Season comes to a close with our Epiphany celebrations, thank you for sharing these days of worship with our Santa Clara community. **Special thanks go out to all those who helped transform our Church from Advent into Christmas: Ginger, Cindy, Rudy, Tessie, Michael, Marc, Tommy, Joshua...you have each been a blessing to the whole community!** The New Year of 2018 beckons...time to leave the Nativity and get back to the real world...and, as the Magi traveled together and found the Christ Child, so we, as Santa Clara, travel together as well, seeking God's graces in unexpected places. New Year, fresh opportunities, new struggles...but some things remain the same....you are STILL loved. FKB