

Holy Communion for Epiphany
(Curiosity)

Invitation:

One: All who are curious, come! You are welcome to come to this table full of questions. Come and explore and find your own answers for your soul. Follow your star and see where it lead you, for Christ is here.

Confession:

All: We confess that we don't have many answers. We admit that we have stumbled over some of the answers others have come up with. We have been afraid to search in unfamiliar places, not sure what we will find, nor how others might react to our discoveries. Give us the courage to follow your leading. Encourage us to take the long journey of exploration. Inspire our hearts with new thoughts, new ideas, allow us the privilege of finding Christ in our world. We seek this joy. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: Jesus loves our questions, and understands our mistakes. Jesus invites us all to come, imitate, and learn. God has show us mercy. We are forgiven, encouraged and free to explore as disciples of Christ.

All: Jesus loves your questions too, and understands your mistakes. Jesus invites you to come, imitate, and learn. God has shown you mercy. You are forgiven, encouraged, and free to explore as a disciple of Christ.

Thanksgiving:

One: Have you noticed anything different?

All: Yes! And it fills us full of wonder.

One: God wants you to follow where that wonder may lead you.

All: Does God really want us to brave the unknown and discover Immanuel?

One: Yes! God want us to bring our full selves and our richest gifts.

All: Yes! God wants to give us a chance to bow down and worship in awe.

One: You are the greatest mystery.

You are without image and with an unspeakable name.

You are beyond our feeble comprehension.

You are always creating more complicated questions, than simple answers.

Yet burning in our souls is a need to seek your presence,

to follow your star,

until we find you in humble reality.

The wise throughout the centuries have found you.

They have laid their treasures before you.

We seek to join their worship expressed by so many all over the world:

All: All we have to do

**Is to ask, seek, and try to find.
God will bless us all.** (Matthew 7:7)

One: God has give us the signs to follow, and Jesus has been the clearest.
Jesus is the way and the truth and the life.
Jesus is our bright and shining star.
In Jesus is life and that life is the light for all people.
Jesus is the Word that became flesh dwelling among us full of grace and truth.
Those who are wise will follow.

The glory of God was expressed through the humility of Christ.
Jesus with towel and basin, humbly bowed down as a servant of all,
even to before an enemy.
Those who are wise will remember and follow.

The glory of God was expressed through the sacrifice of Christ,
who taking the bread of Passover prayerfully,
broke the bread and shared it with all, saying:
“Receive and eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”
Those who are wise will remember this and follow.

The glory of God was expressed through the sacrifice of Christ,
who taking the wine of Passover prayerfully,
filled the cup with wine and shared it with all, saying:
“Receive and drink, this is the cup of my blood,
poured out freely in celebration of the gift of God’s eternal covenant of grace,
the guarantee of forgiveness for every sinner, including you and me.”
Those who are wise will remember this and follow.

We are not always wise, but even as we stumble
and find ourselves confused, we proclaim with the wise:

All: Christ died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Wonder, Awe, Holy Amazement,
look upon the gifts of this bread and wine,
and reveal to our awareness the very body and blood of Jesus
that you might be worshiped as we bestow our gifts.

Wonder, Awe, Holy Amazement,
look upon the gifts of our lives:
our questions, our discoveries, even our wanderings
and reveal a rich awareness to others of your church,

the living body and faithful bride of Christ
that you might be worshiped as we bestow our gifts.

Wonder, Awe, Holy Amazement,
look upon the gifts of the Choptank Charge:
Spedden, Antioch, and Beckwith United Methodist Churches.
Fill them with questions so that they might help others learn about you in new ways.
Allow them to be your stars leading those who seek to find Christ.
Use them to open a multitude of doors of grace to all who feel shut out.

All: Holy Trinity hear our prayer!
Jesus show us your abundant mercy.
Holy Spirit fill us with your love.
Source of All creation, create in us a new heart that we might live only for you.
For you are worthy of our searching the whole world. You are worthy to receive our
most precious gifts. You are the most worthy focus of our worship forever. Amen.

One: Let us pray together as one the prayer Jesus taught us saying:
All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer after communion:

One: Thank you for including us in the sharing of this divine mystery found in Jesus Christ.
We have seen his star and have left the world behind to follow him. We have found him
and have worshiped him. Now, send us out as your ambassadors to all the world, that we
might point the way to others, so they too might come and adore Christ, your only
begotten. Amen.