HANDOUT

What Is Epiphany?

Epiphany 2027: Wednesday, January 6

What Epiphany is

- Epiphany is January 6, twelve days after Christmas, when churches remember the Magi who came to worship the child Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). The day celebrates Christ shown to the nations.

The dates

- Epiphany: Wednesday, January 6
- Twelfth Night: Tuesday, January 5
- The Sunday nearest January 6, where some United Methodist churches keep it: Sunday, January 3

Matthew 2:1-12, the Magi come to worship

READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

> [1]After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, [2]asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." [3]When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. [4]And when he had assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. [5]"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: [6]'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you

> will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.’” [7]Then Herod called the Magi secretly and learned from them the exact time the star had appeared. [8]And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: “Go and search carefully for the Child, and when you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.” [9]After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the Child was. [10]When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight. [11]On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12]And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another route.

READ ISAIAH 60:1-3

> [1]Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. [2]For behold, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear over you. [3]Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

The Epiphany hymns

- Epiphany hymns: We Three Kings and As with Gladness Men of Old. Words, tunes and slides are at churchposting.com/hymns/epiphany/.

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