

## **Epiphany - Whose idea was that?**

*The twelve days of Christmas end with the arrival of the Magi on January 6th. Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas.*

- What does Epiphany mean to you? Have you celebrated Epiphany in the past?

*The word “epiphany” (from the Greek epiphaneia or theophaneia) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.*

*We celebrate the revelation of God’s promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God’s covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Christ.*

- Have you ever had an epiphany? Mundane or divine?
- Have you ever experienced the light of God’s revelation? What was that like?

*Historically, the magi have been named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They have been given many histories but most agree that they symbolize God’s light to the Gentiles of the world.*

- Do you ever think of yourself as a Gentile?
- What does it mean to you to be included in the covenant with the Jewish people?

*When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ’s light to the world.*

- What does the ongoing work of Christmas mean to you?