

## Epiphanies....

*We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him  
Matthew 2:2*

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we will have a service for Epiphany, celebrating the arrival of the Magi (wise men) who followed a star to find Jesus. We call this event Epiphany and on the church calendar it is celebrated every Jan 6. I always like to have a service for Epiphany on the Sunday closest to the sixth of January. We give out stars with words on them that I hope will have some meaning for you in the coming year. At the end of the service, we light candles to signify the light that has come into a dark world with the birth of the Christ child.

My star last year was ‘discern,’ and 2023 was a year of much discernment as I made many decisions following my ‘retirement’ at the end of 2022. Epiphany means an appearance, an illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure. The wise men had an ‘aha’ moment that was so compelling, they were willing to follow a star for two years. I suspect all of us have had some of those illuminating ‘aha’ moments that have maybe changed the whole course of our lives. I know I have!

This service for Epiphany is one of my favorite worship services and a wonderful way to start the new year, so I hope to see you this Sunday.

Happy New Year!  
Mike

PS

I want to thank the congregation and the session for the Christmas gifts and for all the delicious food items that we have enjoyed over the holiday. Thank you also for your faithful attendance in worship during Advent and Christmas.