

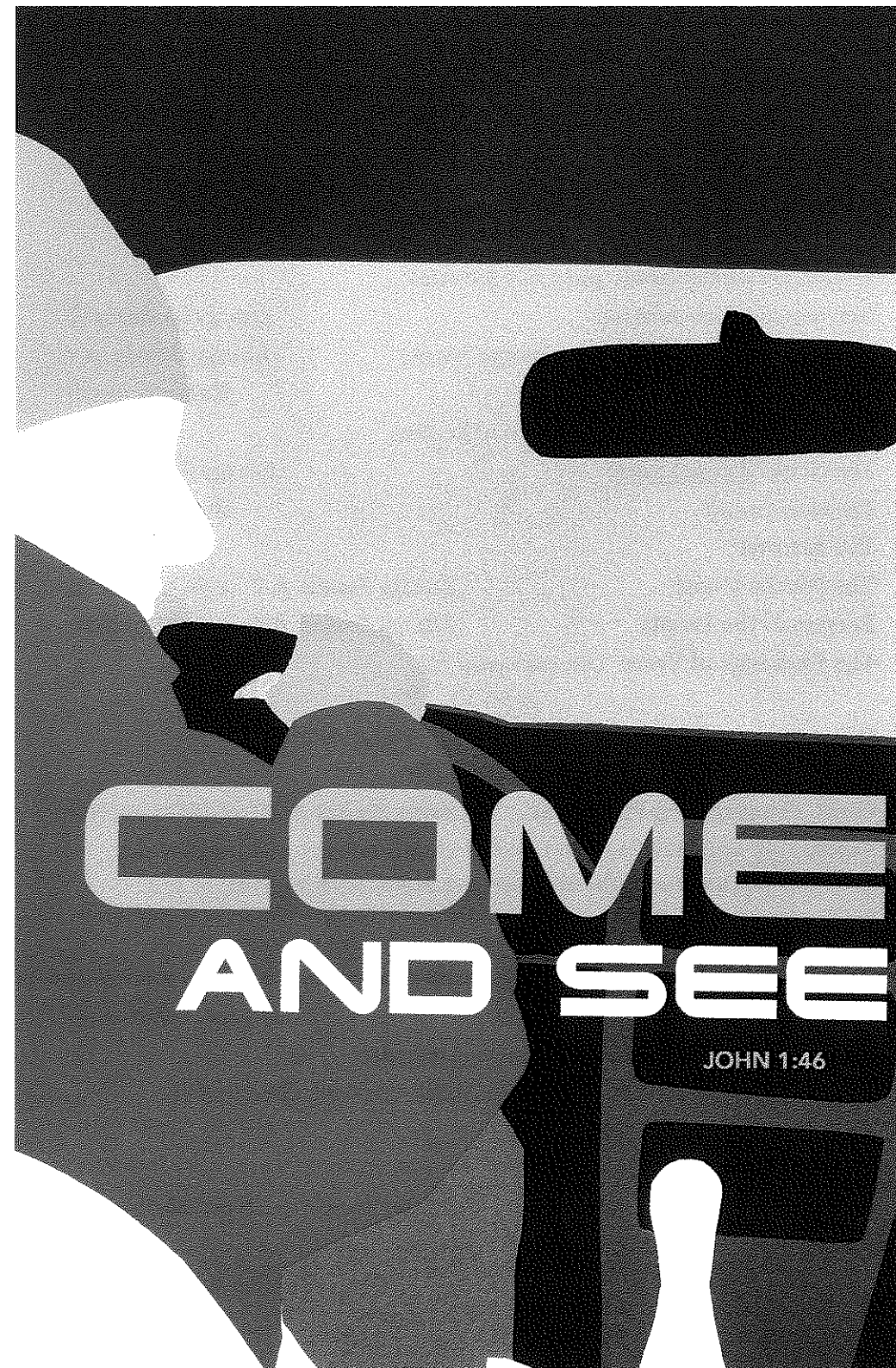
Meeting the Rabbi

Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" "Come and see." This simple exchange between Nathanael and Philip echoes to this day each time someone approaches the Christian faith. We've heard about Jesus. We've heard about his church. We can reflect upon two millennia of deeds, both awe-inspiring and disconcerting, committed in Jesus' name. We can visit museums across the globe and see great works of art capturing the gospel story. We can listen to the music of gifted composers giving powerful and moving voice to liturgical themes. We can hear and read powerful homilies and testimonials.

Ultimately, however, the thing we must do when we receive the call to faith is go and see for ourselves. We have to approach Jesus one-on-one and have our own encounter with the Rabbi.

When he does this, Nathanael is incredulous. Jesus shocks him by telling him small details of his life that it seems unlikely he could have known. Jesus gently—and with humor—rebukes him: "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And so it is for each of us.

We come before Jesus and feel moved to be known by him. We feel naked to our very souls. This motivates us to become his disciples, and yet, he promises, we will experience even greater wonders. Like Nathanael, we will "see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." We will be transformed through our relationship, drawn into God's plan, and equipped to further that plan using capacities for compassion and courage we didn't even know we had. Until we come and see for ourselves, we cannot risk everything, for it is our personal encounter with Jesus that inspires and drives us.



"God's love with feet on / Caminando con el amor de Dios."

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 15, 2012

8:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist 9:05 am ~ Coffee and Christian Education

10:00 am ~ Sung Holy Eucharist 11:15 am ~ Coffee, Conversation

Liturgy Booklet

Hymn #7: Christ whose glory fills the skies

Greeting and Penitential Rite

Liturgy Booklet p. 2

Hymn #S236: Benedictus es, domine (10 am)

Liturgy Booklet p. 4

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

(Readings Insert)

First Reading, Psalm (sung), and Second Reading

The Gospel Acclamation:

Liturgy Booklet p. 6

The Holy Gospel

(Readings Insert)

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Liturgy Booklet p. 7 or (LOC pg. 145)

Prayers of the People

Liturgy Booklet p. 8 or (LOC pg. 203)

The Exchange of Peace (Announcements)

Offertory *The Offering is collected before the Hymn at the Offertory.*

Hymn #542: Christ is the world's true light

Great Thanksgiving Prayer (B) *Liturgy Booklet p. 10 or (LOC pg. 163)*

Sanctus (10 am): Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

...at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the people respond: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Liturgy Booklet p. 14

The Breaking of the Bread and Fraction Anthems:

Healing prayer is offered in the Baptistry during Communion.

Song Booklet: Surely the presence

Going Forth Prayer (stand)

Liturgy Booklet p. 16 or (LOC pg. 161)

Hymn #488: Be thou my vision

Dismissal

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

The Incarnation Cycle

by Frank T. Griswold, former Presiding Bishop

The Church Year, or Liturgical Year as it is also called, falls into two cycles; the first may be termed Incarnation and the second Redemption. The Incarnation cycle focuses on the mystery of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. The Redemption cycle calls to mind the saving work of that same incarnate Word in the death and resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Each cycle is preceded by a season of preparation. In the first cycle, during the season of Advent, we prepare for the Incarnation as various aspects of Christ's coming are set before us. The twelve days of Christmas, which span the time between Christmas Eve and the Feast of the Epiphany, mark the coming of the Word. Epiphany, together with the Baptism of Jesus, further unfold the mystery of the Incarnation as an act of divine self-disclosure and revelation.

Advent: O Day Spring, splendor of eternal light, Sun of Righteousness; come and enlighten the darkness of our minds. O key of David, come and open wide the secret places of our hearts that we may receive you who came among us at Bethlehem, and who comes among us daily in the unfolding of our lives, and will come again in glory in the age to come. Amen.

Christmas: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Epiphany: O God, by the leading of a star, at the waters of the Jordan and in the water made wine you revealed your glory in the face of Jesus, your Beloved Son. Grant that we who have been made your children through baptism may show forth your glory in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Right Rev. Frank T. Griswold is the Twenty-Fifth Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. He was Bishop of Chicago from 1987 to 1997, served as co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, and chair of the Episcopal Church's Standing Liturgical Commission. He retired in 2006. These reflections are taken from his book, "Praying Our Days: A Guide and Companion" (2009: Morehouse Publishing).

Season after the Epiphany

Tues, Jan 17, 7 pm—Hymn Selection Committee Meeting

Wed, Jan 18, 3:30 pm—Policies and Guideline Committee

Sun, Jan 22, 12:00 noon—Parish Potluck and Annual Meeting

REMINDER: All Annual Meeting Reports are due Monday, January 16th

(269) 651-5811

<http://www.stjohnssturgis.org>

~ Announcements ~

COMTEMPLATIVE PRAYER in the Library at 6:45 pm.
Learn contemplative prayer by experiencing various approaches to meditation/contemplation.

NOTE: WED NOON HOLY EUCHARIST. Please join us.

Tues, Jan 17, 7 pm—Hymn Selection Committee Meeting

Wed. Jan 18, 3:30 pm—Policies and Guideline Committee

Sun, Jan 22, 12:00 noon—Parish Potluck and Annual Meeting

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JAN SPECIAL OFFERING—Domestic Assault Shelter. Envelopes are in the pews.

The Friday Friendship Meal can use cakes and helping hands.

FEEL CALLED? Lectors, Servers, Ushers, Nursery Helpers, Altar Guild, and Breakfast Hosts are needed. If interested, please pray about it and contact the office.

The MILLENNIUM PROJECT is coming along. Check it out at anytime.

STOP BY THE CHURCH during the week. Come to pray and find some quiet in the church or meet some of the great people who provide ministry here. This is a busy place.

The Hope Free Store in Centreville is always in need of clothes. Please remember your neighbors in need when getting rid of extra clothes. If you have any questions, please contact Wendell Moyer at 467-1800.

Please Pray for the Following Persons during the Week.

- The Most Rev Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Katharine Jefferts-Schori, Presiding Bishop, Rt Rev Wendell Gibbs, Diocese of Michigan, Rt Rev Todd Ousley, Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Bishop John David Schleicher, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and Rt Rev Julio Cesar Holguin, Episcopal Diocese of Dominican Republic.
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Most Revd Paul Sarker, Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and Bishop of Dhaka.
- Diocese: Church of the Resurrection, Battle Creek; Diocesan Council Meeting on January 21.
- Sturgis: Gateway River of Life Church.
- President Barack Obama, Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor of Sturgis Ken Malone.
- Persons in need: *Cameron, David, Nancy, Kathryn, David John, Judy, Audra, Dan, Jim B., Douglas, Tim, Blanca, Marta, Celia, Joaquina, Cassie, Father Bill Fleener, Halcyon, Jim C., Robert D., Josh, Bob, Elizabeth, Tom, Mother Beth, Pastor Methius, and Father David Pike.*
- Birthdays: *Elizabeth Hagberg, Barbara Laws, Gary Shreiner, Joy VanDeventer, Ana Garcia, Nora Garcia, Michael Speicher, Rod Baker, Jane Boyden, Thom Griffith, Amaza Herrmann, Theodore Herrmann.*
- Anniversaries: *James and Barbara Blain.*
- Flowers at the Altar, given by: *Jane Boyden in memory of her parents, Vernice and Elbert, and her Grandma Lamb.*
- Eucharistic Visitors: Pam & Doug Cronkhite to Bob & Phyllis Palmer, John Griffith to Jean Briley, Bill & Connie Martindale to Thurston, Steve Wilson to Marjorie Mitchell.

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The Second Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 15, 2012

	Sunday 1/15	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	
		8 & 10 am	Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship
		9:05 am	Christian Education
		6 & 7:30 pm	NA Meeting & Alanon Meeting
		6:45 pm	Contemplative Prayer (Library)
→	Monday	9 am & 7:00 pm	Yoga Class & Alanon Meeting & NA Meeting
	Tuesday	7 & 10 & 11 am	B N I Mtg & Alanon Mtg
		7 pm	Hymn Selection Committee Meeting
		6:30 & 7 & 8 pm	AA Meeting & NA Bus Meeting & NA Meeting
→	Wednesday	9 am & Noon	Yoga Class & NA Meeting
		Noon	Holy Eucharist
		3:30 pm	Policies and Guideline Committee
		7 & 8 pm	Men's Bible Study & Reunion Group
	Thursday	9:30 am	Tai Chi Class
		4:30 pm & 6:00 pm	Group Reunion & NA Meeting
	Friday	11:30 am	Friday Friendship Meal
		8 pm	NA Meeting
	Saturday	Noon & 6:30 pm	NA Meeting & AA Study Meeting
		2-4:30 pm	Great Hall Reserved
	Sunday 1/22		3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
		Noon	Annual Meeting
		6:45 pm	Contemplative Hour (Library)

Rector.....The Reverend Canon Meredith Hunt
Deacon.....The Reverend Deacon Floyd Kunce
Supply Organist.....Sally Balzer

8 a.m. Acolyte/Asst.....Kelsi Caywood (L2)/Jack Caywood
Lector 1.....Jack Caywood
Prayers.....Michael Caywood
Usher.....Jane Boyden
Breakfast Host.....

10 a.m.
Sub-Deacon/L2/MC/Chalice.....Doug Cronkhite (L2)
Thurifer.....Steve Wilson
Crucifer.....Noah Kinsey
Server 1.....Bill Martindale
Server 2.....Pam Cronkhite
Lector 1.....Tom Soper
Prayers.....Bill Martindale
Usher.....Joe Parker
Breakfast Hosts.....Steve and Diana Wilson
Nursery.....Rose Rudinski and Emma Cook

Altar Guild (January 1 - January 28)
Emily Baker, Bev Andrews, Jane Boyden, Sharon Baker

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