



**January 8, 2023**

**ABIDING LOVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

3205 S. Chiquita Blvd., Cape Coral, Florida 33914

Pastor Mark S. Voss – 303-808-0611 (cell)

Staff Minister Mr. Ben Mahnke -- church office-239-984-1441

[www.abiding-love.com](http://www.abiding-love.com)

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January 8, 2023

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

## WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word.

- Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- The Elders request that we observe five minutes of quiet time in the sanctuary prior to the start of each service. Please be seated and use this time to prepare for worship and read the bulletin announcements.
- We love families! Your children are welcome in our service, *including our youngest children!* Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus. If you would like, there are children's worship bags with lessons, crayons, and books in the entryway of the church. An usher can assist you. We ask that you return these to the basket after the service.
- **Information:** We ask all our members and visitors to please complete a yellow information card located in the seat backs. These will be collected by the ushers during the offering.
- **Please silence your cell phones.**

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE  
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

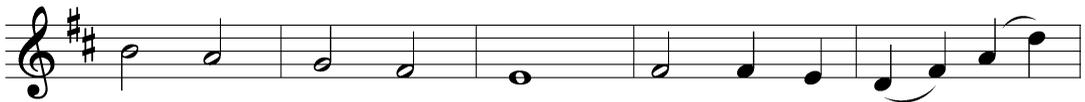
## Opening Prayer

**All:** Father in heaven, I thank you for revealing your Son to me and all believers on the pages of sacred Scripture. Through him you have led me to see my forgiveness, brought peace to my heart, and given me a reason to live a life of joy and praise. As one who has seen the light, lead me to worship you with an undivided heart and guide me to put the lessons I learn today into my daily life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

(8:00am) **Opening Hymn “Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”**  
CW 380



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made and end - less  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
leap, un - loosed their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

**(10:30am) Opening Hymn****“We Three Kings”**

Cong: 1. We three kings of Orient are;  
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
 Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
 Star with royal beauty bright,  
 Westward leading, still proceeding,  
 Guide us to thy perfect light.

Choir: 2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
 Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
 King forever, ceasing never,  
 Over us all to reign. *(Refrain)*

Choir: 3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
 Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
 Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
 Worship Him, God most High. *(Refrain)*

Choir: 4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
 Sealed in the stone cold tomb. *(Refrain)*

All: 5. Glorious now behold Him arise;  
 King and God and sacrifice;  
 Alleluia, Alleluia,  
 Earth to the heav'ns replies. *(Refrain)*

## Invocation and Praise

P: In the name of the Father, who is the “Father of the heavenly lights,” and of the Son, who is the “Light of the world,” and of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light to us through the gospel.

P: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**C: The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.**

P: We are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.

**C: His glory and grace are shining on us.**

P: Let us reflect the light of God’s love,

**C: so that others may live in his light!**

## Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, we praise our newborn King:

***“The People Who in Darkness Walked”*** CW 381 sts. 1, 3–4

- 1 The people who in darkness walked  
 have seen a glorious light;  
 the heav’nly dawn broke forth on those  
 who dwelt in death and night,  
 who dwelt in death and night.
- 3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
 the Everlasting Lord,  
 the Wonderful, the Counselor,  
 the God by all adored,  
 the God by all adored.
- 4 His righteous government and pow’r  
 shall over all extend;  
 on judgment and on justice based,  
 his reign shall have no end,  
 his reign shall have no end.

Text: John Morison, 1749–1798, abr., alt.  
 Text: Public domain

## **Prayer**

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# + Epiphany Lessons +

## Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

### The glory of the Lord is the gospel

<sup>1</sup>“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.

<sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Ephesians 3:2–12

### The mystery is made known – the gospel is for all people

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup>according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Verse of the Day

**ALL: Alleluia.**

P: We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

**ALL: Alleluia.**

## Confession of Faith

P: In a world that has difficulty believing in the one true God, but is so ready to believe that our universe happened by some unknown accident, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: In a society that so quickly rejects what God did through his Son, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

P: While many put their trust in things or people that they make into their gods, what do you believe that Jesus did that proves he has conquered death and is true God just as he said.

C: **He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Those who refuse to trust the Lord are without hope. What do you believe that gives you hope?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

### Hymn of the Day “As with Gladness Men of Old” CW 372



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,  
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,  
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.  
 There for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Text: Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon****Rev. Mark Voss**  
Matthew 2:1-12**Theme: “*Perfect Gifts for the Newborn Jesus*”****Perfect Gifts for the Newborn Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>“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 shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## Offering and Information Cards

*Our offering to the Lord our Savior God flows from hearts of joy and love. The offering is used to support the work of proclaiming the gospel message here and around the world. No one is obligated to join in the offering. To give an offering electronically, visit our website: [www.abiding-love.com/giving](http://www.abiding-love.com/giving) and click on "donate."*

*Information: We ask our members, friends, and those visiting with us today to complete an information card located in the seat backs and place it in the offering plate. If your contact information has recently changed, please indicate this so we may update our records.*

## Prayer of the Church for Epiphany

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

P: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

**(8:00am) Closing Hymn****“We Three Kings”**

Cong: 1. We three kings of Orient are;  
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
 Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
 Star with royal beauty bright,  
 Westward leading, still proceeding,  
 Guide us to thy perfect light.

Choir: 2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
 Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
 King forever, ceasing never,  
 Over us all to reign. *(Refrain)*

Choir: 3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
 Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
 Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
 Worship Him, God most High. *(Refrain)*

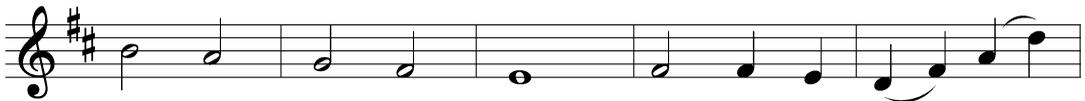
Choir: 4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
 Sealed in the stone cold tomb. *(Refrain)*

All: 5. Glorious now behold Him arise;  
 King and God and sacrifice;  
 Alleluia, Alleluia,  
 Earth to the heav'ns replies. *(Refrain)*

(10:30am) **Closing Hymn “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”**  
 CW 380



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made and end - less  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
 leap, un - loosed their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.  
 Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Silent Prayer

*The Ushers will dismiss the rows from front to back.*

**LAST WEEK AT ABIDING LOVE:****ATTENDANCE: 1/01/23 10:00am: 89****SERVING THIS WEEK:**

**Ushers: 8:00:** Dan Rys; Erv Stiemke; Ryan Schlomer  
**10:30:** Sheryl Pierson, Lois Crusan; Linda Gosey

**Accompanist:** Jack Lehnhardt

**PowerPoint: 8:00** Jay & Stacey Devlin **Next:** The Beichlers

**Livestream: 10:00** Aaron Rys **Next:** Aaron Rys

**Fellowship:** Bob & Kathy Kalsto **Next:** Anna Ruege

**Altar Guild-Jan: 8:00** Val Widup  
**10:30** Nicky Shelton

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>Tues. Jan. 10</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Men's Fellowship Breakfast at House of Omelets on Pine Island Road
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Women's Evening Bible Study at the home of Paula Bruns — Book of James
<b>Wed. Jan. 11</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	Preschool Chapel
	<b>10:00am</b>	Ladies' Bible Study
	<b>11:00am</b>	The Circle Meeting
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>CALL MEETING</b>



## **BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Today at 9:15, join us for Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School. Pastor Voss will lead the adult Bible study in the church Sanctuary. Children's Sunday School will be held in the Multipurpose Room for children ages 3+. We hope you will join us!

### **2023 Giving Envelopes**

Giving envelopes for 2023 are available this morning in the Narthex. Please take yours home with you today. We understand that not everyone uses giving envelopes as many choose to donate online or choose to give monthly, quarterly or annually. If you have not been assigned giving envelopes and would like them, please see Wendy or Nicky in the church office or contact them by email or phone call -- [info@abiding-love.com](mailto:info@abiding-love.com); 239-984-1441, or simply let one of our ushers know today after services.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

The Worship Committee will be meeting on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am so that we may begin our plans for Lent and Easter worship. All ministry groups should be represented so that we can share ideas and plan together.

**SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP**

We are once again offering a time of Fellowship after services beginning this month. Please stick around and join us for a cup of coffee and a snack. Kathy Kalsto is looking for volunteers to help prepare snacks and coffee for upcoming Sundays. If you are able to assist, please email Kathy at [kjkalsto@centurylink.net](mailto:kjkalsto@centurylink.net).



## **THE CIRCLE MEETING – Wed., January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**

The next meeting of The Circle will be held on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am after the Women's Bible Study group meets. All women of the church, as well as visitors, are welcome to attend.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP –Wednesday Mornings**

The Women's Morning Bible Study Group will meet again this Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Multipurpose Room. We will begin our next Bible Study *What's Big Starts Small* by Mike Novotny, pastor of The CORE (Appleton, WI) who also serves as the lead speaker for *Time of Grace*, a global media ministry. All women are invited to attend. Please contact Sheryl Pierson if you have any questions—239-464-1740 or [jspierson1945@gmail.com](mailto:jspierson1945@gmail.com).

## **EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Tues. at 6:30pm**

Paula Bruns hosts an evening Bible Study at her home every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. The group is studying the book of James. Please join us at 5695 Bolla Court in Fort Myers if you are interested. If you would like to know more about the group, please contact Paula at 239-634-1008.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST—Tuesdays at 8:00am**

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group meets every Tuesday morning at 8:00am at the House of Omelets, located at 900 SW Pine Island Road #122 in Cape Coral. We hope you can join us.



## CALL MEETING UPDATE

### NEW DATE -- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>—7:00pm

We are currently in a vacancy pastor situation. We are following the WELS Call Process as we search for our new pastor. A list of new 2023 candidates will be available on January 11th. We have decided to hold our next call meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00pm in order to be first in line for these new candidates. We are asking our members to make every effort to attend this important Call Meeting. All voices will be heard.



**ABOUT ABIDING LOVE:** *Abiding Love Lutheran Church is a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), with almost 400,000 members in 49 states and missionaries in 23 nations. The WELS is committed to the Scriptures as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and therefore the only guide for faith and life. If you would like to know more about us, or if you're seeking Biblical counseling, give Pastor Voss a call at 303-808-0611 or email him at: [markvoss35@gmail.com](mailto:markvoss35@gmail.com).*