

**January 4, 2026
Second Sunday After Christmas**



January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany

**Mission Statement: To Bring People to Christ
And Nurture Them in the Faith**



Pastor: Rob Bacon
Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Rev. Jerry Swanberg, Emeritus
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Maxwell Methodist Church
January 4, 2026 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon

Pianist: Deb Mitchell

***Please stand if able**

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship as We Rejoice

Praise Team

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Arise, shine, for Your light has come!
 The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

People: **Nations shall come to the brightness of His dawn,
 And kings to the splendor of His rising.**

Leader: Like the Magi, we followed the star,
 Seeking the one who brings hope and salvation.

People: **The mystery, once hidden, has now been revealed –
 Christ is for all people.**

Leader: Let us bring our gifts of praise and open our hearts,
 For the Light of the World has come.

ALL: **We worship the Christ who draws all people to Himself –
 our King, our Savior, our Light.**

We Worship in Prayer

***God of Light and Mercy, we confess that though your star has risen; we often choose to walk in shadows. Like Herod, we have clung to power and fear instead of seeking peace; like the Magi, we are slow to worship and quick to wander. Forgive our self-centeredness, our hesitation to follow Your leading, and our failure to welcome all people as part of Your great mystery. Shine Your light into our hearts, that we may be renewed by Your grace and walk in the way of Christ, our true King. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. “Shine, Jesus, Shine”. TFWS (Black Book) #2173**

We Worship Together in Belief

***The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, He rose again,
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Worship by Hearing the Word

Scriptures. (NIV) Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6

The Glory of Zion

- ¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you
- ²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- ³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴“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.
- ⁵Then 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.
- ⁶Herds 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.

***The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The Magi Visit the Messiah

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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. 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 shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

***Gloria Patri Hymnal #33**

We Worship in Prayer

Praises and Requests

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer

We Worship in Giving

Offering plates are at both doors as you enter or leave and will not be passed.

***Doxology / *Offertory Prayer**

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”. Hymnal #211**

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. “Rise and Shine” Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. “The Light of the World Is Jesus”. Hymnal #215**

Benediction

Postlude. Deb Mitchell

Announcements

- **Pastor's Office Hours** : By appointment. Rob 515-460-8885; Carol 515-460-8969
- **Bulletin Announcements**: Please forward bulletin announcements to office@maxwellmc.org by Wednesday.
- **Fellowship Sign-up**: Please sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship time.
- **SNNOW**: Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- **January 6, 2026**: The Feast of the Epiphany
- **January 8, 2026, @ 6:30pm**: Bible Babes Bible Study.
- **January 11 @ 5:15 – 7:00 pm**: Youth Group Meet at church
- **January 19, 2026 @ 9 am**: Volunteer Sewing Group

What is The Feast of the Epiphany?

The Feast of the Epiphany is a Christian celebration that occurs on January 6th (12 days after Christmas), marking the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This feast commemorates several key events in Jesus' life, including the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) to the Christ Child, His baptism in the Jordan River, and the wedding at Cana. In Western Christianity, it primarily focuses on the visit of the Magi, symbolizing Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. In Eastern traditions, it is often referred to as Theophany, emphasizing the baptism of Jesus as a significant revelation of His divine nature.

The 2026 Season of Epiphany begins on January 6 and ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This season varies in length, depending on the date of Easter Day.