

## **Epiphany Sun A**

### **Introduction**

Today is the feast of the Epiphany... the coming of the Three Kings or Magi... basically men who were not Israelites.

The Church thru today's readings teaches us that the coming of Jesus is for all people...

that our loving God reaches out to all people thru the coming of his beloved Son.

Let's take a closer look at what this might mean.

### **Refrain... O Come let us adore him**

### **I God's Story**

We first have to ask, "Why did Jesus come?" "What might his coming mean to us?"

God sent God's own beloved Son because God's creation was broke.

Story: It was a cold, blustery night... bitterly cold, snowing mightily, the wind blowing and gusting.

The man sat in his warm house with the fire place ablaze, looking out his picture window at the storm outside.

Suddenly something hit the window... he heard it, but saw nothing. A little while later something else hit the window. The window did not break, but he was certain that something hit it. A little while later something else hit the window and this time he saw it... a small bird had flown into the window, probably seeking the light and warmth... a refuge from the storm.

The man went outside and saw three stunned birds lying in the snow under his picture window. He wondered how he might help these birds and any others which might be seeking shelter. He thought about throwing open his front door and crying out to the birds to come in from the cold – but he was big and would scare off the birds... How might he help them? How might he rescue them? How might he save them?

If only he were a bird he could invite them and lead them into the shelter of the warm, safe house... If only he could become a bird!

And so, God became one of us... God sent his own beloved Son into our midst to save us and rescue us from the evil and dark and at times sinful storms of our world.

Christmas is the beginning of the story of God's Son among us as one of us.

### **Refrain... O Come let us adore him**

### **II The Story Continues**

Notice the details of this story of the coming of Christ...

Today's feast describes how three Gentile strangers, following a call from Creator God – the special Star – come to offer worship to the newborn Son of Mary/Son of God.

Yes, God's Son was sent to the whole world and all peoples to bring God's healing and compassion and strength to us.

But first Jesus would go to his own people – the special people God had called to bring God's message to the world.

But the coming of God's Son is fraught with difficulties...

- a young woman becomes pregnant, but not by her fiancée who then decides not to marry her. God has to reassure him in a dream - strange way for God to communicate with us.
- Mary and Joseph are in a strange city when she gives birth to God's Son, and they can't even find a decent place for the birth to take place... they are homeless, and must settle for a stable or cave...
- Shepherds come to see this strange site – a baby lying in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes – not exactly how we might have written the script for the birth of God's Son. None of the important people of Israel were even invited...
- Then, when the three Gentiles come searching for the Christchild, the leader of Jerusalem is threatened and plans to kill this potential pretender to his throne...
- Once again we have a dream... God tells Joseph to flee immediately. I wonder what Joseph thought... "Enuf already... We don't even have a decent place for Mary's child to be born, and now we must become refugees in a foreign land?"

God's ways are surely strange, aren't they?

**Refrain... O Come let us adore him...**

### **III The Message**

What are we supposed to learn from all of this?

God's ways are not our ways.

We couldn't have written a script for the coming of God's beloved Son as strange as what happened.

Perhaps God wants to teach us something...

All of us encounter problems in our lives.

At different times the storms of life seem to almost overwhelm us.

Our culture tells us that life is all about buying stuff and being entertained – this will make us happy and fulfilled.

But then real life happens. We experience ups and downs.

A young couple I know recently celebrated their first pregnancy. The whole family looked forward to the coming months and the birth in early summer. Then four months into the pregnancy the young mother loses her fetus, her child, her happily awaited first born. The whole family was heartsick. Many tears were shed. How would they weather this storm... this seeming meaningless tragedy?

How did Joseph and Mary weather their storms?

They trusted in loving God and tried their best to listen and to do God's will...  
to build God's kingdom and not their own,  
to do God's will and not just their own,  
to realize that life is not about being entertained consumers with a lot of stuff, but life is about loving and relationships and supporting each other and caring for each other...  
and seeking God's strength when the storms get tough.

From the Christmas story we also come to understand that our God knows what it is to suffer...  
that God does not always take away the storms of our lives and the suffering we go through –  
in the end Christ did not come to explain our suffering but to fill it with his presence.  
Baby Jesus was present in the midst of the chaos and stormy time of the young Holy Family. The Holy Family trusted in loving God and sought God's help in their time of need. They did their best in the circumstances they found themselves. They protected Jesus. They cared for each other.

**Refrain... O Come let us adore him...**

### **Conclusion**

As we continue with this Mass let us ask our loving God to strengthen us and our families.

We offer ourselves to our loving God together with Jesus.

We remember Jesus' great love for us poured out on the Cross. At communion we ask Jesus to enter our hearts and our lives to help us to love him and to walk in his footsteps, trying to do God's will and live as God's children...

And we entrust our families to the Holy Family, to guard our families and strengthen them.

*From the Desk of Donald Ware, C.P.*

---

**Refrain... O Come let us adore him...**