



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

January 6, 2008

1 Epiphany, 2007
Children's sermon

Today is a very special day in the life of the Church. Does anybody know what today is called?

Yes. Epiphany.

It is not often that the day of Epiphany falls on a Sunday. Epiphany is the last day of our Christmas season. In our church we celebrate Christmas for 12 days and today is the twelfth day, Epiphany.

Does anybody know what Epiphany means?

Manifestation or showing forth. Today we celebrate God showing God's love for the people called Gentiles. These were the people who were not Jews.

You see the Jews had been taught to believe that God only loved them, and only loved them if they followed all of the laws that they had been given.

Well let's look at our stable and see what God did at that first Christmas.

First of all Mary was engaged to Joseph and in Jewish law that was the first part of marriage contract. 14 yrs old, pregnant and not married.

Joseph, according to the law, had to divorce Mary. He had been shamed by Mary.

Shepherds-religious outcasts-because of their work they were not able to be at Church regularly and so they were considered sinners.

Wise Men were gentiles and considered outside of God's love.

Epiphany is so important because it completes the story of Christmas and it tells us that when God came to us in the person of Jesus he came to tell us of God's love for everybody.

Everybody.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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