

Epiphany (Middle English: from Greek *epiphainein* 'reveal')

the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).

- the festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6.
- a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being.
- a moment of sudden revelation or insight.

Epiphany is my favorite season of the liturgical year. I know it's literally about various revealings or manifestations of Christ, a season that allows us to get to know **him** better. So we concentrate on stories like the visit of the foreign Magi and Christ's baptism, his various teachings, healings, and miracles, and ultimately his transfiguration.

But the three cycles of the lectionary also include various iterations of the calling of the first disciples. And this is the part of Epiphany that most jizzes me. As a person who calls herself a follower of this Jesus guy, this Christ, that makes me a Christ-ian and it behooves me to know as much about my namesake as I can so that I know who and what it is I'm actually following. But it needs to go beyond just knowledge. If I'm a **follower**, then the implication is that I have some of those qualities as well. Or should at least try to have some of those same qualities. We need to go beyond "I would if I could but I can't so I won't" as an easy out for lazy behavior and lukewarm—at best—discipleship.

Granted, no foreigners with fancy gifts showed up after my birth. No, I'm probably never going to perform a miracle that defies the laws of nature. And I don't likely have the ability to heal someone from a debilitating illness. But might my presence, care, and companionship be a type of much-needed "healing" (if we understand that word more as a restoration of wellbeing rather than a cure) for others in some kind of distress? Might a spiritually grounded lifestyle be a model, and maybe even an invitation, for others to choose the same? At the very least, my teaching can pass on Christ's revolutionarily liberating good news, both to those who long to hear it as well as to those who need to hear it (if you catch my drift ... ahem!). There's a saying among some church folk: Blessed to be a blessing. I'd like to tweak that a bit to make it appropriate for this time of the Church year: Epiphanied to be an epiphany.



The star guided the Magi to the toddler. What star or stars are my current guides? Where are they leading me? And once I arrive, how will I be manifesting? Because we're **all** potential stars, shedding particular lights that guide others in particular directions. So, while the season of Epiphany is great for gleaning insights into Christ, it's also an opportunity (dare I say obligation?) to learn more about ourselves as Christ-ians with influence and to set up the necessary changes, tweaks, and reroutings that will ultimately be the focus of Lent. But that's an essay for another time and liturgical season!