The church year begins with Advent, at the end of November, and moves to Christmas and Epiphany. Epiphany begins at sundown on Thursday, January 5, the end of Christmas (hence the twelve days of Christmas). Friday, January 6, Epiphany Day, launches a season in which we remember and reenact Jesus' manifestation in his public ministry. The Greek word *epiphania*, rendered "epiphany" in English, means a shining forth or upon.

The Gospels tell us that the earliest moments of Jesus' manifestation were to the Magi and the shepherds. Then at age 12, he was manifested to the religious leadership in the Temple (Luke 2). At about age 30, he was manifested to John the Baptist in his baptism.

We pray for Jesus to shine forth in our experience during this season. One of the Collects in *The Book of Common Prayer* is especially important during Epiphany. It is the Collect of the Day for the first Sunday after Christmas and a suggested collect in The Order of Worship for Evening for use in Christmastide, Epiphany, and other Feasts of the Incarnation.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word; Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*BCP*, 213).

During this season, which extends until Ash Wednesday, February 22, the beginning of Lent on March 2nd, join me in making this your prayer. First, that Christ may shine forth in our hearts, that we may see and experience more fully the Christ already present. And, then, we pray that Christ's light and love may shine through in our words, actions, and personalities to those who pine away in the darkness of a spiritual wilderness bereft of the love and grace of God.

This year, your new rector and his wife, Hal and Michelle Weidman, begin their journey with you on Ash Wednesday. How exciting!!

God's peace,

David W. Perkins+
Interim Rector