

January 3, 2021 | Epiphany Sunday

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a
community of disciples
with a heart for God
and hands to help others.

* = All who are able please stand. ♦ **boldface** = congregation participates

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of every nation, by the light of a wondrous star you led wandering magi to the humble infant Jesus, revealing to them your salvation for the world. In both the miraculous and the mundane, in union with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace, lead us to Christ, that we may offer our worship and serve him with sincerity of heart. Amen.

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we gather together peering into our computer screens and checking our cell phones, we wonder,

“Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children as well as in the wisdom of grandparents

Leader: We gather asking,

“Where will we find the Child of Christmas?”

People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

Leader: We gather wanting to know,

“Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”

ALL: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Creator and Igniter of the Stars, we search for your light, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation.

Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our own desires rather than the hope you have for us.

We want the gifts of success, wealth, health and fulfillment rather than those of servanthood, compassion and peace.

Forgive us for being so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of long ago who

found hope instead of a destination, who found grace instead of gratitude, who found salvation instead of a sign.

As we journey with your Son, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.
Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Grace has been poured into our hearts,
love has flooded our souls,
the light of hope shines in us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **This is the light which has come to all,
the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you**

*You will have the opportunity to share the peace of Christ with others
in a break-out room for a few minutes.*

Share the peace and greet your siblings in Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Before the Marvel of This Night*

Dylan Rehm
by Carl Schalk

Hearing the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

¹²For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE: *Enlightened Expectations*

Responding to the Word

HYMN

We Three Kings

Steve & Leslie Menconi

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth to Serve

BENEDICTION

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Greg Caraballo, Reader

Leslie Menconi, Prayers

Dylan Rehm, Chancel Choir & Handbell Director

Kurt Schweitz, Messenger Band Director

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor

