

We too have come to Bethlehem and join together to rejoice.

Gathering Hymn #66, vs 2 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Confession of Sin

God of perfect light. Lead us as we proceed through life.
Forgive us when, like Herod, we allow selfish ambition to
make us willing to harm others. Forgive us when, unlike the
magi, we refused to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of
Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia and amen!

Song of Rejoicing #40

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Passing the Peace

... The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The pastor will now "unmute" all participants. Add video if you are on Zoom. Please greet one another by waving, smiling, or saying "Peace!"

Concerns of The Church

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Special Music

Reading from the Gospel

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, asking, '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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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.' When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

"Getting in Trouble with Herod"

Communion Hymn vs. 3

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshipping god most high.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation, Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, Words of Institution

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Guiding God, you have blessed us on the road we have chosen to seek your star. You have given us food, strength and sustenance to repudiate Herod and resist selfishness and greed as we keep on going toward that certain star. Thank you for this food of faith. Amen.

Offertory

Doxology #591

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn #66, vs. 5

We Three Kings of Orient Are
Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Benediction

Fellowship

Join us after the Zoom worship service for fellowship!