

Sunday, January 2, 2022

9:00 Zoom Edition

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5046768135>

Meeting ID: 504 676 8135

Or dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

AND

10:30 am In-Person Worship

Streaming on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeacePresbyterian>

Order of Worship

Epiphany of the Lord

Prelude

Musician Patrice Meschke

Welcome

Pastor Heidi Vardeman

Gathering Song

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old, Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

Call to Worship

(from Isaiah 60:1 and John 8:12)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Jesus said: I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
But will have the light of life. Let us worship God.

Hymn #66, vs. 1,2

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,

field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Confession of Sin

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor. We ignore cries for Justice. We do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sung Response (*unison*)

You are the Lord, the Author of mercy
You are the Christ, the Pattern of mercy
You are the Lord, who holds us in mercy

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends ... Believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia and amen!

Song of Rejoicing (*unison*)

Sing to the glory of the God who creates us,
Sing to the glory of the Christ who redeems us,
Sing to the glory of the Holy Spirit,
Who sustains and comforts us.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
World without end, world without end,

Passing of the Peace

... The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Concerns of the Church

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-18

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Communion Meditation

“Let’s Be Careful Out There”

Hymn #66, vs. 3,4

We Three Kings

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
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.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

You have filled us with good things, gracious God. Let us now live lives that show forth
your life in this weary world. Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve people who are poor,
reconcile with our enemies, and love our neighbors. Keep us faithful in your service until
Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your
eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all
glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Offertory

Doxology #591

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn #66, vs. 5

We Three Kings

**Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Benediction

Closing Song

Go, Tell it on the Mountain!

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**