



January 7th, 2024

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude “We Three Kings” arr. by Heather Sorenson

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Leader: The brightness of God’s light shines upon all the nations.

People: All are welcomed to the brightness of God’s dawn.

Leader: God gathers us from far away and carries us.

People: With radiant eyes and rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

Leader: We respond in praise to God’s goodness!

People: With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

*Opening Hymn #151 “We Three Kings”

Poem “The Magi” by Malcolm Guite

It might have been just someone else’s story,

Some chosen people get a special king.

We leave them to their own peculiar glory,

We don’t belong, it doesn’t mean a thing.

But when these three arrive they bring us with them,

Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;

A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,

A pilgrim’s eye that sees beyond the stars.

They did not know his name but still they sought him,

They came from elsewhere but still they found;

In temples they found those who sold and bought him,

But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.

Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice

To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, forgive us for hiding in the darkness of this world rather than walking in the light of your love and glory. When we displace you from the throne of our lives, darkness envelopes us. When we remain passive while others are oppressed, shadows steal across the light. When we deny you our wholehearted worship, your light in us dims. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

People: **Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*Musical Response #39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (*Refrain*)

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayers**

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “The Fourth Gift of the Magi”

*Hymn #152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright” vs 1-3

Time for Response to Sermon

Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Prayer After Communion

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #150 "As With Gladness Men of Old" vs 1-3

*Benediction

Postlude

"Jingle Bells"

arr. by Eugenie R. Rocherolle

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God's presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; **Heidi Thomas**, Music Director;
Eileen Adair, Piano; **Cathy Jaynes** and **Judy Viccellio**, Musicians;
Dale Vodehnal, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host

About the Cover Art: *Journey of the Magi* by James Tissot, 1894.

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