

SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2, 2022

PRELUDE “Carols of the Star” -arr. L. Smith

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)(*Adapted from Isaiah 60:1-6*)

One: Arise, our LIGHT has come!

All: The glory of God has risen and shines on us even in darkness that surrounds us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; all shall gather and come to the LIGHT.

All: We shall see the radiance of our God; our hearts shall thrill and rejoice!

One: Come and celebrate the Light of God given to the nations!

- OPENING HYMN #151 “The First Noel” (*We encourage masking while singing*)

- OPENING PRAYER (*In unison*)

God of challenging grace, we come this Epiphany Sunday celebrating the Light you have brought forth in Jesus the Christ. Forgive us when we do not allow this Light to invade our hearts and souls so that it may shine forth in our words and deeds. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us. Renew us. Empower us to journey forward out of our comfort levels seeking more fully to follow and embrace your Way of Light in this world. Hear us now as we offer in silence our prayers of confession deep within us.

(Silent prayer)

We pray all of this in the name of the Bethlehem Babe born to us. Amen.

- WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God hears the sincere confessions of our hearts and lips.

We are forgiven and empowered by the Holy Spirit for new beginnings of new life.

All: We believe the good news given through Jesus Christ; we are forgiven.

- RESPONSE #164 “Good Christians Friends, Rejoice” (*Vs 1*) (*We encourage masking while singing*)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and lamb before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

- PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As we greet those around us with the sign of peace, please be respectful of each other’s comfort level.)

MUSICAL RESPONSE “There’s a Song in the Air!”

SCRIPTURE

First Reading: **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14** (page 533)

Second Reading: **Matthew 2:1-12** (page 2)

WORD FOR ALL AGES “*Holy Journeys*” Rev. Deborah Payden

CHORAL ANTHEM “Saw You Never in the Twilight” -arr. H. Hopson

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE - SILENT PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER (*In unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

• HYMN #172 “We Three Kings” (*Sing refrain after vs 1 & 5 only*)

CALL TO OFFER OUR TIME AND TALENTS

(Offering plates can be found at the center doors outside the sanctuary. Giving is also possible online through VANCO MOBILE on our website and through the sharing of your gifts in service.)

• OFFERTORY RESPONSE “As with Gladness” (*Sung by all*) (*We encourage masking while singing.*)

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

• PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation - Communion Prayer - Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

• CLOSING HYMN #167 “Go Tell It On the Mountain” (*We encourage masking while singing*)

• COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” -arr. R. Hobby

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve

Our time of worship concludes at the end of the Postlude. If you would like to remain in the sanctuary to listen to this music written and played to glorify God, please do so quietly. Otherwise, you may join others in the narthex for refreshments and fellowship.

Psalm 72

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Saw You Never in the Twilight

Saw you never, in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,
Up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes?

So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.

Heard you never of that story how they crossed the desert wild,
Journeyed on by plain and mountain, til they found the holy Child?

How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant King;
Gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh in offering?

Know you not that lowly baby was the bright and Morning Star?
He who came to light the Gentiles, and the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our heart's best treasures bring;
Love, and faith, and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.