

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Gather Us In

arr. by: John Behnke

The Trinity Chimes represent God our Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord is risen upon you!

Nations shall come to your light,

And rulers to the brightness of your rising.

They shall come from Sheba, bearing gold and incense,

Singing the praise of God!

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 245

The First Noel

vs. 1-3

THE FIRST NOEL

†OPENING PRAYER

O God, by the leading of a star your Son was made manifest to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

†GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

TULANE



Glo - ry be to God on high, cre - a - tor of the world;



Glo - ry be to God the son, re - deem-ing grace to give;



Glo - ry to the Ho - ly Ghost, in - spir-ing us to love;



One in three, three in one for - ev - er — more.



A - - - men.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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 words and actions

often hide the brightness of your light.

We turn away from the poor;

we ignore cries for justice;

we do not strive for peace.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come! the glory of YHWH is rising upon you! Though darkness still covers the earth and dense clouds enshroud the peoples, upon you YHWH now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among you! The nations will come to your light and the leaders to your bright dawn! Lift up your eyes, and look around: they're all gathering and coming to you—your daughters and your sons journey from afar, escorted in safety; you'll see them and beam with joy, your heart will swell with pride. The riches of the sea will flow to you, and the wealth of the nations will come to you—camel caravans will cover your roads, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of YHWH.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14



All kings shall bow down be - fore him.

Give the king your justice O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **R**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come sown like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. **R**

All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. For he shall deliver the poor who cry out in distress, and the oppressed who have no helper. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their lives be in his sight. **R**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

For I, Paul—a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—am sure that you have heard of God's grace, of which I was made a steward on your behalf; this mystery, as I have briefly described it, was given to me by revelation. When you read this, you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was unknown to the people of former ages, but is now revealed by the Spirit to the holy apostles and prophets. That mystery is that the Gentiles are heirs, as are we; members of the Body, as are we; and partakers of the promise of Jesus the Messiah through the Good News, as are we. I became a minister of the Good News by the gift of divine grace given me through the working of God's power. To me, the least of all believers, was given the grace to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ and to enlighten all people on the mysterious design which for ages was hidden in God, the Creator of all. Now, therefore, through the church, God's manifold wisdom is made known to the rulers and powers of heaven, in accord with the age-old design, carried out in Christ Jesus our Savior, in whom we have boldness and confident access to God through our faith in Christ.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

What Star Is This?

arr. by: Richard Shepard

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent announcing a new King, glad tidings of our God to bring. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;" and lo! the eastern sages stand, to read in heav'n the Lord's command. While outward signs the star displays, and inward light the Lord conveys, and urges them, with force benign, to seek the giver of the sign. O, while the star of heav'nly grace invites us, Lord, to seek thy face, may we no more that grace repel, or quench that light which shines so well! To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One, may every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise! Amen.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too." After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at

seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

† **HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 254**

We Three Kings

vs. 1 & 5
KINGS OF ORIENT

SERMON

Sometimes The “Wrong” People Get It Right

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Schönster Herr Jesu

arr. by: Gerre Hancock

† **DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP NO. 189**

Fairest Lord Jesus

vs. 1, 2, & 4
ST ELIZABETH

† **BENEDICTION**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Fiat Lux

by: Theodore Dubois

† *Congregation standing as able*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher:

Rev. Mark Flynn, *Lead Pastor*

Liturgist:

Rev. Jenny Caughman, *Spiritual Care Pastor*

Rev. Denna Hornby, *Associate Pastor*

Music:

Josh Sumter, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Wesley Singers (8:45)

Parish Adult Choir (11:00)

Childcare is provided for all services.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2023