



*Today's flowers were provided by
Jennifer Sereda and Art Smith.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Matthew 2:1-6)

Voice 1: From the ancient witnesses of the gospels of Luke and Matthew, we weave together a sacred story. Jesus has been born, yet there are more revelations about who this humble infant is and will become.

Voice 2: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking

Voice 1: "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."

Voice 2: 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,

Voice 1: "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.'"

Voice 2: Invited by the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and sent choirs of angels, let us worship Christ our King, shepherd, and redeemer.

HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: **[Refrain]**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: **[Refrain]**

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear. **[Refrain]**

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One: **[Refrain]**



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and love, we admit to you that we are creatures who either through foolishness or wilfulness often choose darkness instead of light. And in doing so, we fail to see the signs that you send, and miss the opportunity to help the wandering pilgrims who cross our path.

Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep-seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.

Give us eyes to see the stranger, the seeker, and embrace them on their journey, as you embrace us in ours. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, Epiphany is good news!
The Light comes not to sear and blind us
but to save us.
Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.
In his name I declare to you: Yours sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!



PRAYERS OF PEACE

Pray the peace of Christ for family and loved ones,
neighbors and acquaintances,
friends and enemies,
people and places around the world.

RESPONSE *What Child is This?*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise, the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:22-38

MESSAGE **The Persians and the Prophets** *Jonna R.*

CAROL *An Epiphany Carol*
Composed by Jonna R.
Vocals, percussion, and editing by
Miriam Anderson

*Long ago Magi of the east saw a brilliant star arise.
Now a great King is born!
That is what these signs advise.*

*To Herod they did go asking where to find the One.
In Bethlehem the prophets wrote
is the birthplace of God's Son.*

*The star led them to Bethlehem
to a mother and the Child.
Filled with joy and bowing low
they gave gifts from far and wide.*

*Long ago Magi of the east saw a brilliant star arise.
Now a great King is born!*



PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for all in need this day, and for our world,
especially at this time of coronavirus pandemic...

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Transform the gifts we offer you this day,
that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise,
and transform our lives
to reflect more deeply your justice and joy
In the life of the world.



CAROL *Love Has Come*

Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how
their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Love has come, and he never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21

