



PRELUDE *Star of Bethlehem*, by Miklos Rosza
- David Little, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

God is there.

When magi journey and follow the star,

God is there.

When they present gifts to the newborn King,

God is there.

In all of our daily activities,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see,

God is there.

Let us praise God,
for God is with us
always, and everywhere!

CAROL #143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Gracious and loving God,
you call to us to trust in you
as we journey through
dark times and shadowy places.
Yours is the light which guides us
and the voice which we follow.
Reveal yourself to us as we worship.
May those struggling to hold onto hope
be encouraged;
those who are sad, cheered;
those who are seeking, find you.

RESPONSE #666 *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead
people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of
direction. We let ourselves become confused,
easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to
follow the signs you provide. Forgive our
waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that
we may follow his way to you.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—John 1:9, 12

“The true light that gives light to everyone was
coming into the world. Yet to all who would receive
him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the
right to become children of God.”

PASSING THE PEACE

CAROL #151 *We Three Kings*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 2:1-12
Luke 2:1-7

MESSAGE Anyway

CAROL #122 *Silent Night*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

CAROL #136 *Go, Tell it On the Mountain*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE