

# Epiphany Sunday – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 9:15 AM

## Gathering Music & Announcements

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

Arise and shine, for the light of Christ has come! The glory of the LORD has risen upon us.

**Christ's mercy has restored us with forgiveness and grace.**

Arise and shine, for the light of Christ is shining on us now.

**Arise and shine with Christ's peace and love for all who are gathered here today. Amen.**

### Opening Hymn\*

*We Three Kings*

UMH 254

### Opening Prayer (Unison; United Methodist Book of Worship)

**O God, you have made one people of all nations, and, by a star in the east, revealed to us the one whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know your presence with us to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light, and bow before the brightness of his rising. This we pray in the name of the one who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

### Moment for Ministry

Pass It On Ministry

Skip Panowitz

### Prayer of Confession & Silent Prayer

Dave Tramontana

God of Wisdom and Truth, forgive us when we choose to walk in darkness rather than into the glory of your marvelous light. Shine through our doubts and despair that we may trust in the hope of your mercy and grace. Shine into our selfishness and sense of entitlement, that we may live as people of generosity and compassion. Be with us now, Lord Jesus, and shine upon us. May the light of your birth shine into our darkest sorrows, and gather us in to your holy presence in this season of Epiphany and beyond. **Amen.**

### Words of Assurance (Psalm 106: 1)

Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. **And also, with you. Amen.**

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

### Hymn Response\*

*The First Noel (v.1,3-5)*

UMH 245

### Sermon

“Out of Babylon”

Rev. Byron E. Brought

### Epiphany Sermon Quiz

- ❖ Where were the Wise Men probably from?
- ❖ How many Wise Men were there?
- ❖ What gifts did they bring?
- ❖ Who was the King of Israel at the time?
- ❖ How did the Wise Men know that a “king” had been born?

### Offering Our Gifts

*This moment of reflection is an opportunity to consider your response to God. How will you demonstrate your love for God? How will you give of your time, your talents, and your treasures? Please consider giving electronically; ask us how. Thank you.*



### Communion & The Lord's Prayer

### Special Music

Dave Tramontana and Jeff Beyers

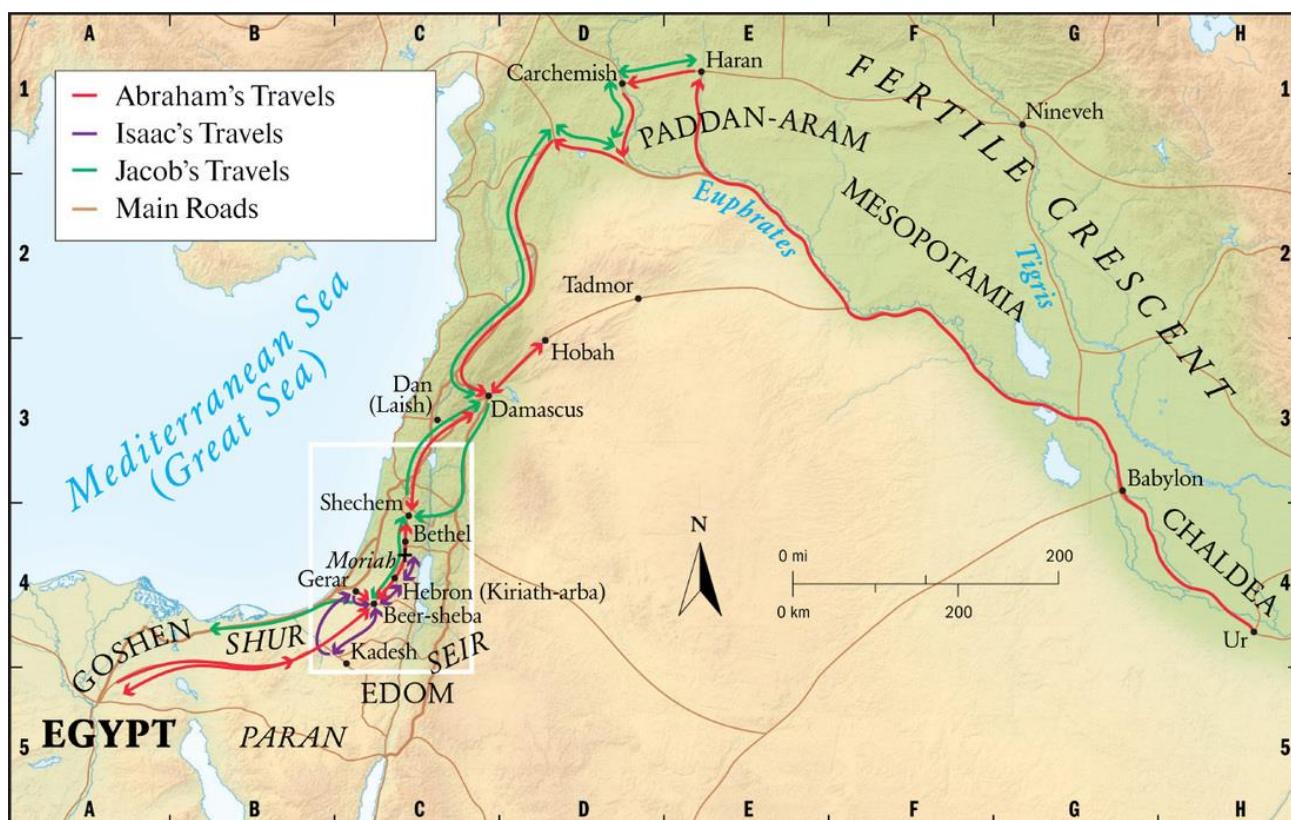
## Benediction &amp; Organ Postlude\*



**Children's Choir – New year! New opportunities!** Children's Choir is open to all kids ages 4 through Grade 5. We rehearse this month on Jan 8, 15, and 22 at 10:15am in the Choir Room 103. We'll sing in the 9:15 worship service on January 29. Can't wait to see you!

**Annual Stewardship Campaign is here! Time to embrace our M&Ms!** Each year we celebrate our M&Ms, our Ministries and Missions. Each year we give thanks to God that we can provide for our congregation, our community, and our world. Pledge cards will be mailed this month. We invite you to return them anytime this month. Thank you for your kindness and faithful generosity.

## Possible Path of the Wise Men



**Bel Air United Methodist Church**  
**21 Linwood Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014**  
**410-838-5181 <belairumc.org>**

**We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy

perfect light. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

***The First Noel (v.1,3-5)***

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***There's a Song in the Air***

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King! There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth, for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King! In the light of that star lie the ages impeared; and that song from afar has swept over the world. Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King! We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!