



Bel Air United Methodist Church Epiphany Sunday – January 7, 2024 – 9:15 AM

Prelude

Jeff Beyers, Organist

Ministry Opportunities

Call to Worship (Isaiah 60:1)

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)

Eternal God, who by the shining of a star led the wise men to the worship of your Son, guide by his light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may behold your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Rev. Deb Lampton

Prayer of Confession & Silent Prayer

Rev. Lynn Boyd

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

Magi

Rev. Byron E. Brought

Offering

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

Hymn*

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

Poem

The Work of Christmas (Howard Thurman)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Benediction & Sending Forth



Adopt A Child –Thank you to everyone who participated as a coordinator, a sponsor or donated money to the Adopt a Child program. We were able to give Christmas to 29 families with 94 children referred to us by the Department of Social Services. We could not have completed this program without your help. You are greatly appreciated!

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.

Hospitality Sermon Series – January 14th – February 11th, 2024

January 14 – Hospitality in the Old Testament World – Joshua 2

January 21 – Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 18:1-10

January 28 – Hospitality in the New Testament World - Acts 4:32-35 & Hebrews 13

February 4 – Paul and Silas in Philippi – Acts 16:31-34

February 11 – Who Is Invited? – Parable of the Great Supper – Luke 14:15-24

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 night, 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 night, 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, worshipping God on high. O star of wonder, star of night, 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 night, 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 night, 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, Noel, born is the
King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both
stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, 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, 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 impearled; and that song from afar has swept over the world. Every hearth is a flame, 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!