



# Bethlehem

## United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2, 2022

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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### GATHERING AND PRAISE

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*“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (UMH #206)*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

### OPENING PRAYER

God of Light, we need your illuminating power. May we be like the wise men, seeking you with confidence and rejoicing when we find you. May we learn from King Herod not to react in fear when your presence is made known to us. Rather, may our hearts be filled with joy by your revelation of glory in Jesus the Christ. Enlighten us this day with your words of love, your power and grace, that we may follow you more faithfully. In the name of Christ, born of flesh and raised in glory, we pray. Amen.

### HYMN

*“We Three Kings” (UMH #254)*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following glowing yonder star.

*Refrain:* 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.

*Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense own a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

*Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sound through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

### MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

#### CALL TO PRAYER

*“Take Our Bread” (UMH #640)*

Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

Take our lives, O Father, we are yours, we are yours.

## MORNING PRAYER

### THANKSGIVING for OFFERING, TITHES, AND GIFTS

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#### HEARING GOD'S WORD

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##### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. **2** They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.” **3** When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. **4** He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: **6** You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.”

**7** Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” **9** When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. **11** They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

##### SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”(TFWS #2098)

##### SERMON

“Seeing is Believing”

Rev. David Lord

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#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION, CONFESSON, AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world you have led your people from far places to his light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

#### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### HYMN

“Gift of Love” (UMH #408)

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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#### SENDING FORTH

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#### BENEDICTION

#### CLOSING

“On Eagles Wings” (UMH #143)  
And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.