SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 4, 2026
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PROCESSIONAL *We Three Kings* Traditional

from Psalm 119

CALL TO WORSHIP Cliff Cardi

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord,
your salvation according to your promise.
Uphold us according to your promise, that we may live,
and let us not be ashamed of our hope.
Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

***HYMN 152** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Guiding God,
we confess that we are distracted by many stars –
bright promises of success, security, and self-importance –
and we do not always follow the light that leads to Christ.
Forgive us.
By your mercy,
reorient our hearts and redirect our steps,
so that we may walk by faith and not by sight.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 804** (v. 1) *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Star in the East* Appalachian Tune/
(The Chancel Choir) arr. Steven Phillips

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger;
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Chorus
Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining;
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him, in slumbers reclining,
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall. *(Chorus)*

What shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Eden and offerings divine?
Gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine? *(Chorus)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 877 **SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Worst Baby Gifts Ever* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* arr. Paul Manz

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 749** *Come! Live in the Light!* WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

Refrain:
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. (Refrain)

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. (Refrain)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *Joy to the World* Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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