

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

## Epiphany Sunday Combined Service

**January 10, 2020**



### ***The Service for the Lord's Day***

#### **WE GATHER**

PRELUDE "From Heaven Above to Earth He Came", Op. 65

setting Sigrid Karg-Elert

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE**

OPENING HYMN #63  
As With Gladness Men of Old Dix

**Please reflect on the words of our hymns and songs in your heart, not with your voice**

1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

### *WE CONFESS*

#### CALL TO CONFSSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFSSION

**Gracious and Loving God, on Epiphany we remember and celebrate the revelation of the Christ child to the Magi, who did not know you or your law, but perceived your signs in the heavens and followed your light to Christ. We confess that though we do know you, we often struggle to perceive and follow your will. Sometimes we misinterpret the signs; sometimes we see what isn't there; sometimes we fail to look up at all. Many times we do perceive but hesitate to follow, preferring to stay in the familiarity of where we are now, even if where we are is cloaked in shadow and gloom. Forgive us, Lord, and shine your light upon us, that we may be guided by it, filled with it, and able to shine it out and share it in the world.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### *WE LISTEN*

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

“March of the Kings”

Traditional French Carol

Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

**Please reflect on the words of our hymns and songs in your heart, not with your voice**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Finding Another Way”

## WE RESPOND

### HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

#66

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

1 We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

3 Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, we are raising,  
Worshipping God Most High.

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

5 Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Here in Your Presence"

Jon Egan

Bridget Warner, soprano

\*Response "Offering"

Paul Baloche

Bridget Warner, soprano

Verse

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love  
There is no shadow in Your presence  
No mortal soul would dare to stand before Your throne  
Before the Holy One of heaven  
It's only by Your blood  
And it's only through Your mercy Lord I come

Chorus 1

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
O Lord I bring an offering to You

\*Prayer of Dedication

## CLOSING HYMN

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

#69

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright  
Thou beamest forth in truth and light!  
O Sovereign meek and lowly!  
Thou root of Jesse, David's Son,  
My Lord and Savior, Thou hast won  
My heart to serve Thee solely!  
Thou art holy,

Fair and glorious, all victorious,  
Rich in blessing,  
Rule and might o'er all possessing.

2 Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine!  
O deep within my heart now shine,  
And make Thee there an altar!  
Fill me with joy and strength to be  
Thy member, ever joined to Thee  
In love that cannot falter!  
Toward Thee longing  
Doth possess me; turn and bless me;  
Here in sadness  
Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "The Heavens Declare"

Benedetto Marcello