FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Andante Religioso* from Sonata No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, people of God, and shine, for your light is come!
People: Let us follow God's light wherever it leads us;
Leader: in the great corridors of power, and the small houses of the poor;
People: in the places God has promised, and in the places we least expect.
Leader: As the wise men came, let us come and pay homage to Christ our Lord;
People: let us worship the child born in Bethlehem; come, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #68

What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 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.

2 '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.

3 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.

4 To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

*Please stand if you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ your light has come to us, filling the world with the brightness of your love. Yet we confess that we often shade our eyes and turn away. We seek the glow of easy comfort in our lives and in our faith. Forgive us, Lord, and empower us to be bearers of your light in the world. Help us to shine forth your justice, mercy, and peace, so that your love may be revealed in our lives.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Linda Filipovits

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Eureka – Finding Another Way"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #68

We Three Kings THE 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. **(Refrain)**

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

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

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from 1 Corinthians 15)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Torches! Jean Joubert

Chancel Choir

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling
While we sing you our Rorro

Sing, my friends, and make you merry
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and evermore. Amen

Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and ever, evermore. Amen

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…

As our Savior Christ has taught us, so we pray:

The 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music Meditation on "Dix" arr. Peter Lutkin

*SENDING HYMN #63

As with Gladness Men of Old DIX

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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sortie" from *L'Organiste, Volume 1* C. Franck