



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

January 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

What Child Is This? (Hymn 53)

arr. Gehrke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

Let us fall on our knees in his honor!

Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

*HYMN No. 411 (V.1-4)

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God,

Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!

Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captives' liberty,

Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones

And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!

The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing;

God's power will make us strong.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, hear the Good News! The Christ has come to show us the undeserved favor of God. Friends, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

STAR WORDS

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

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

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!

Shall we then yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise to you... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the people of faith of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

Blessed are you, most gracious God, for the gift of your child, our sibling, Jesus Christ... In union with Christ's offering for us, we live out the mystery of the faith we proclaim:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Spirit of the living God, make us one as we partake of these your gifts to us, so we might be in communion with you and one another... through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor and praise are yours Almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN No. 66 (V.1-5)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 too 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 too thy perfect light!

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

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

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us too 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 too thy perfect light!

***DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

***RESPONSE**

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (Hymn 69)

arr. Callahan

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.