

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
January 1, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

Leader: God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

All: We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

Leader: Let us sing in praise.

***HYMN**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

107

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines on us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins to God and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light, of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

We reflect silently on the ways we have fallen short.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. Believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen, and thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us again to Christ, and direct us in new paths of faithfulness. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Matthew 2:1-8

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Jesus Is Born

Gay Piller, Sue Pouos

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:9-12

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they knelt and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

***HYMN**

As with Gladness Men of Old

150

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgement under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

***THE CALL TO OFFERING**

We are not passing the offering plate at this time, but if you feel called to give, it is located in the Gathering Room outside the sanctuary.

***DOXOLOGY**

607

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO TABLE

THE GREAT 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 truly right...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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy...dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God...now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

As you are able, please wait to consume the bread and juice, that we might partake together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***HYMN**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

744

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE