

Epiphany Sunday

January 1, 2017

**~Gathering the Family of God~**

**The Peal of Our Church Bell**

**Prelude** *For All the Blessings of the Year* David Hearty

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**All: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

One: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East, saying:  
Where is the one who is born king of the Jews?

**All: For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.**

One: The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Hymn** *Here in This Place* # 401

**\*Call to Confession**

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed.

Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily;

the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom;

the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it;

the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

Let us make our confession together,

**\*Confession of Sin (in unison)**

**Most holy and loving God, we admit to you and to each other,  
that we are creatures who either through foolishness or willfulness  
often choose darkness instead of light.**

**Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions,  
our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom,**

**our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.**

**Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others,  
and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.**

**Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us."**

**Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!**

**\*Silent Confession**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: My friends, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear and blind us  
but to save us. Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. In his name I  
declare to you: Your sins are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving, and live without shame or anxiety.

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us. Amen!**

**\*Gloria Patri** # 581

**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.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

**~Hearing God's Word~**

**God's Word for little Ears**

**Prayer for Illumination (unison)**

**Dear God, as your star guided wise men to the cradle of Christ, so may your  
Word be a guide for us. Open our eyes to see the light of scripture and open our  
hearts to respond with hope and joy. Amen.**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 60:1-6 page 690

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Piano Praise** Jonathan Patterson

**New Testament** Matthew 2:1-23 page 2

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message** *Following the Star* Rev. Terry Epling

**\*Hymn** *As With Gladness Men of Old* #150

**~Responding to God's Word~**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born  
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended  
into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from  
thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the  
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.** [The Apostles Creed].

## Invitation to the Table

### The Great Thanksgiving: Epiphany

One: We give you thanks, O God, ...The angels sang glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:

**All: Holy Lord, God of endless love heaven and earth are surely full of your glory. The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it. Blessed is he who was born that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.**

### Words of Institution

### Prayer after Communion

#### The Lord's Prayer (unison)

***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.***

### Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

#### Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

*Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad. You may also share any joys or concerns on the cards in the pews. Place them in the offering plate for inclusion in the prayers of the people.*

**Offertory**                      *Lord, We Come Before Thee Now*                      Thomas Canning

**\*Doxology**                      *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*                      # 606  
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.***

#### Offering Prayer (in unison)

**God of light, shining in darkness, through a little child, born in Bethlehem, you open to us the treasure of your grace. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our lives to you with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ, the rising star. Amen.**

### Life in Our Church Community

**\* Closing Hymn**                      *I Come With Joy*                      #515

### \*Benediction

**\*Postlude**                      *When All the Mercies, O My God*                      M. Alfred Bichsel

*\*Please stand, if you are able.*

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.