

Bulletin

January 3, 2021 – Second Sunday of Christmas (on-line worship service)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE

“Three King of Orient”

Janet Linker

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Komara

We gather wondering, ‘Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?’

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, ‘where we will find the Child of Christmas?’

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, ‘where will we find the Christ who has come for us?’

We will find our hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Thom Shuman *Where the Broken Gather*

HYMN

“Star-Child”

#2095-Sing the Faith

Music: Carlton R. Young

Text: Shirley Erena Murray (Matt. 2: 1-12)

***Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven’s lightning rod,***

***Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

***Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

***Hope-for-peace Child, God’s stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elizabeth Komara

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires rather than your hopes for us. We want gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Lord, that our we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ORGAN MEDITATION

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

setting by Josef Friedrich Doppelbauer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathy Breese

God of mystery and grace, whose revelation comes to those willing to hear and see and feel, send your word, your star, your dreams to confront us with the gospel of salvation, that we might respond with a radiance that is contagious to those around us and faithful in proclaiming your praise. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

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.

RESPONSE

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks be to God.
(Deut. 6:6)

SERMON

EPIPHANY STARS

HYMN

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

#150

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Text: William Chatterton Dix, c 1858

***As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.***

***As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing fee ever seek thy mercy seat.***

*As they offered gifts most rare at thy 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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD'S PRAYER

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Thom Schuman *Where the Broken Gather*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, our works, a continual thank offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Brightest and Best of the Stars"

Setting by G. Winston Cassler, arr. Wayne L. Wold