



January 3, 2021
Epiphany of the Lord

REFLECTION

“What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? ... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men ... Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise.”

- Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

PRELUDE

“As with Gladness Men of Old” arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace
“How Far Is It To Bethlehem” & “O How Beautiful the Sky” arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

“We Three Kings” arr. Jeremy J. Bankson & Tom Trenney
Chancel Choir, Chancel Handbell Choir, Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs
Brass Ensemble

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around bombarded by news of pandemic and poverty, divisiveness and deception, injustice and finger pointing. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world and transform us into people of the light. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI No. 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>“Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child”</i>	arr. Mark Hayes
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>	
GOSPEL LESSON	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	
SERMON	<i>“Gold, Circumstance and Mud”</i>	Rev. William Schram
HYMN No. 147, St. 4 - 6	<i>“The First Nowell”</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, . . . Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns! All creation renders tributes of praise to you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of redemption, . . . to enter the hearts of everyone we meet. Amen.

CONSECRATION & 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.

HYMN NO. 602

"Holy, Lamb of God"

YA HAMALALLAH

Holy Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Holy Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us your peace; Grant us your peace.

SHARING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of love, you have fed us with the bread of life and the blood of redemption. Fulfill in us the promise of Christ's glory that we may overflow with the boundless compassion and forgiveness which was first given us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN No. 584 (The New Century Hymnal)

"I Am the Light of the World"

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

REFRAIN:

I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! **REFRAIN**

To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! **REFRAIN**

To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To call a man your brother everywhere. **REFRAIN**

To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! **REFRAIN**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“God Rest You Merry”

arr. Wilbur Held

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Paul Salierno, Cantor & Soloist

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



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