



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

8:30am Alternative Worship

Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

Celebration of the Lord's Day

Welcome and Community Life

Prayer of Adoration

*Song *As with Gladness Men of Old* Kocher

*Call to Worship *Adapted from Isaiah 60*

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

All: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

One: Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

All: Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

One: O come, let us adore him!

Song *Sing of God Made Manifest* arr. J.S. Bach

Call to Confession *John 3:19*

One: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of light, we have been so blind when truth has been so clear. When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind. When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part. When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way. Forgive our dim apprehension of love's clear leading. Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see, through the light that lingers when all else fails, even the bright Morning Star of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Savior. Amen.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Sisters and brothers, you are forgiven and accepted—be at peace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Song

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Smart

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12 NRSVue

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:⁶ '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.' "⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ 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."⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ 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.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Guided by the Eastern Star

Rev. John C. Tittle

*Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Music

Light of the World

Lauren Daigle

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

All: **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 the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Concluding Prayer

***Closing Song**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hopkins

***Charge and Benediction**

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Marcia Aurand, children's message

Joey Samoy, lay reader

Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

Adoración Ensemble – George Davis, Becky Diebold, Bob and Carol Van Gelder, Sandy Russell,
Joy Hager

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art: *The Three Magi are called to Herod*, 5th century mosaic, Santa Maria Maggiore



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