

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



11:00am Traditional Worship Service
Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2024

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are with Für Elise

Arr. Fettke

WELCOME

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*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!

*HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

Kocher

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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF 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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man.

*HYMN

Sing of God Made Manifest

arr. J.S. Bach

OFFERTORY

Morning Star, Your Cheering Light

Hagen

*DOXOLOGY

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.
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el,
born is the King of Israel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Immanuel, God with us, the Magi followed the star to find you. Amazed, they gave gifts. We too are amazed by your presence among us, by the gift that you are to us. With joyful hearts, we bring you our gifts of time, of money, of ourselves. Use these and us to serve you and your world. Amen.

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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hopkins

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

We Are Marching in the Light of God

South African

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor
Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries
Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation
Marcia Aurand, children's message
Tim Bacchus, lay reader
Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

Acknowledgments:

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Hymns are selected from the Presbyterian Glory to God hymnal.

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



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