

# Service for the Lord's Day

Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2019

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (each person prays silently)

By your grace lord, teach us to joyfully follow you just as the wise men followed the star. Amen.

## Gathering

PRELUDE Selected

WELCOME Rev. Michele R. Goff

\*INTROIT “Imagine the People of God”  
(Chancel Choir)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
We have seen a star in the East!  
**God is with us. Light has come!**  
We have heard the songs of the angels.  
**God is with us. Love has come!**  
Now we follow the light into the world.  
**God is with us. Christ has come!**

\*HYMN #151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” Hopkins Jr., 1857

PRAYER OF THE DAY  
Eternal God, by a star you led magi to the worship of your Son. Guide the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION  
Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another, first in silence, and then with the responsive Prayer of Confession:

SILENT REFLECTION (A time of silence for personal prayer)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
God of light, shine upon us. Move us to see the glow of your presence in the darkest places:

*the places where it seems impossible for a candle to hold its flame.*  
Move us to know the light of your Spirit in the brightest places:  
*the places where neon signs, LED headlights, and fluorescent bulbs are nearly blinding.*  
Move us to notice the light of your love in the loudest places:  
*the places where the chaos and cacophony demand all of our attention.*  
Forgive us, Lord, of the ways we fail to notice and live in your good news. Move us to see you, to hear you, to feel your warmth.  
**May we know the light, and may we never fear the darkness.**  
For it was in the void of darkness that you formed the world,  
**and it was in the dark of night that you came as a child.**

LORD HAVE MERCY Kyrie Eleison  
“Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*GLORIA PATRI *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.* #580

## Proclaiming

ANTHEM “The People Who Walked in Darkness” Handel’s Messiah  
(Joshua Allen, Soloist)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6 Bibles, p.649/LG. p.844  
NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:1-12 Bibles, p.181/LG. p.235  
The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

HYMN #138 “Who Would Think That What Was Needed” Maule, 1987

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Bibles, p.1/ LG. p.2  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Seeking Light” Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth! **Amen.**

## Responding

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from The Confession of 1967 (9.18)*

***God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized. Amen.***

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

Selected

### DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Let us dedicate the offering together:

***To you, O God of all glory, we offer the gifts of our lives as a way of bearing witness to the gift of your Word made flesh. Use the humble things we offer as signs of your grace and truth so that all may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Those who are able may come down the center aisle to be served. If you prefer, please remain seated and the elements will be brought to you. The outer ring of the communion tray contains white grape juice and the inner rings contain wine.*

## Sending

### \*HYMN #744

***"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"***

Scott, 1929

### \*BLESSING AND CHARGE

### \*RESPONSE #744

***"Arise, Your Light Is Come!" (v.1)***

### POSTLUDE

Selected

(\*) Those who are able may stand.

***Bold italic letters*** indicate congregational responses.

**This week's prayers and concerns:** Debbie Castro, Fonta Conway, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, Kay Warren, Sue Williams, Lavonne and the family of Bob Schauwecker, Carol Scoggins and family, and Bill Caldwell.



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