

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Light from Next to Normal* Duet, Stefen Kane and Joshua Allen

\*DOXOLOGY #607

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*For gifts abundant and for grace abounding, we give you thanks, generous God. Bless the gifts we bring today. Use these gifts and our lives to be your gift of grace to others. Amen.*

— Sending —

STAR WORDS INVITATION

MUSIC *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (instrumental)

STAR PRAYER

*God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts.*

*Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.*

\*HYMN #150 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE *Love Has Come* Joshua Allen

*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*

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Rev. Michele R. Goff.....Pastor

Joshua Allen.....Music & Worship Arts Facilitator

Debbi Ricci.....Admin. Assist.



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



Henderson, Texas

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HENDERSON, TX**

**Epiphany of the Lord  
December 31, 2023**

<https://media.istockphoto.com/id/523599899/vector/three-wise-man.jpg?>

(\* Please rise in body or in spirit

Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— **Gathering** —

**PRELUDE** Voluntary on Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Joshua Allen

**WELCOME** Rev. Michele Goff

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Carol Scoggins

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

***We come to this space, following the star, seeking a miracle.***

You will see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice

***for here we find a prophecy fulfilled, and a mystery revealed!***

**\*LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

***Jesus Christ is the light of the world.***

**\*HYMN #127** Jesus, the Light of the World (Hark! The Angels Sing)

**CONFESSION**

Even when God's light gives us a clear path to follow, we find ourselves wandering in the wilderness. We do not need to hide from the light; we can come before God with every part of our lives, that we may be restored to God's way for us.

***Holy Refugee of Israel, we would like to believe that we would be like the magi, that we would protect the innocent child, that we would stand up to power.***

***But too often we have turned away from those who need us.***

***Too often we have bent to the powers that be,***

***resigning ourselves to the way it has always been.***

***Forgive our lack of action, guide us back to your purposes,***

***and help us be brave enough to do your will.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God calls to us from wherever we are. ***God's love shines like a beacon.***

God's voice echoes in our souls, ***"You are forgiven!"***

**\*GLORIA #113 (Refrain)**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

— **Word** —

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 60:1-6 Bible p. 649, LG p. 844

Treasure these words and ponder them in your heart.

**SECOND TESTAMENT READING** Ephesians 3:1-12 Bible p. 181-182, LG p. 235-236

Hear the word of the Lord.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. ***Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12 Bible p. 1-2, LG p. 2

The mystery of the ages, revealed to the prophets and apostles.

Hear the word of the Lord.

The mystery of the ages, revealed to all. ***Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON** Of Kings and Joy Rev. Michele Goff

**ASCRPTION OF PRAISE**

— **Response** —

**\*HYMN #145** What Child Is This

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27*

***The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.***

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Remember God's message: Do not be afraid!

Therefore we pray with hope and joy, saying:

O Christ, our light, ***hear our prayer.***

...knowing that our redeemer is here—

for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord,

Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray. ***Amen.***

**LORD'S PRAYER**

***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,***

***thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.***