

# **TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Order of Worship for January 3, 2021

Epiphany

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude –

Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world. The glory of God echoes  
throughout the world.

Let us praise the name of the Lord.

—based on Psalm 19:1-4, NRSV

Call to Confession

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.

—based on John 3:19, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

**God of the Bethlehem star,  
everyone is searching for your light  
shining in the face of Christ.  
The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him.**

**But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger.  
We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure.  
We do not come simply to worship:  
we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health,  
wealth; asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions  
for not-so-important requests that we heap before him.  
But the Magi sought first the kingdom.  
Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own need in  
perspective, worshiping the Christ in love, content to be in your  
presence, and laying our gifts before you.  
Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light  
will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.  
—based on Matthew 2:1-16; 6:33**

Silent Confession

***(A time of silence will be observed for personal confession .)***

Assurance of Pardon

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,  
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.  
If we say that we have fellowship with him  
while we are walking in darkness,  
we lie and do not do what is true;  
but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.  
—1 John 1:5-7, NRSV

Our Response      **My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

**My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine:**

now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire.

## Sharing Our Faith with Our Children

### \*Hymn From a Distant Home

From a distant home the Savior we come seeking,  
Using as our guide the star so brightly beaming.

Refrain:

Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning,  
Heaven's wondrous light, O never cease thy shining!  
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven,  
And upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Glowing gold I bring the new-born babe so holy,  
Token of his power to reign above in glory. [Refrain]

Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing,  
Token of our prayers to heaven ever rising. [Refrain]

Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus,  
Token of the pain that he will bear to save us. [Refrain]

## Scripture Lesson

## Isaiah 60:1-6

60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

60:2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

60:3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

60:4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

60:5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

60:6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

## Scripture Lesson

## Matthew 2:1-12

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

2:6 '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.'"

2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

2:8 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."

2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

2:11 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.

2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Sermon – Our Light Has Come**

**Rev. Jennifer A. Baer**

**\*Hymn We Three Kings of Orient Are**

**We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.**

**Refrain:**

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

**Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, we are raising,  
Worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;**

**Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

## **Communion**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory –

\*Doxology (Hymn 592)

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

\*Sending Forth and Benediction

\*Choral Response- **Blest Be The Tie that Binds**

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.**

Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

Liturgist: Sandy Peoples

Head Deacons:

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Baer

Music Director: Pamela Carroll