A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday After Christmas

January 1, 2023

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING...

The Prelude
The Introit
Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship
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.
Let us kneel down before him
to offer 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.

Hymn 147
The First Nowell
vv. 1-3, 6
The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
REFRAIN: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. REFRAIN

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. REFRAIN:

Prayer of Adoration
God of endless light, you sent a star—rising in the night sky, guiding seekers and sages,
overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and all the world until
the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The 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

p. 581 in the Hymnal
Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, you hold all time in your hands—past, present and future. As you have loved us in all the years that are past, so you love us now; your love will never come to an end. We confess that we are timebound and forgetful of all the ways you sustain us. We confess that our love for you and others is too fleeting. We confess that an unknown future makes us cautious, afraid, and sometimes despondent. As we enter this new year, help us see its promise more than its peril, enabling us to move forward in faith. Forgive our hesitancy and the grumblings we utter and help us to greet the new opportunities and experiences before us with joy and hope and courage. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
The good news in Christ is that we are forgiven and set free to live anew! Thanks be to God.

*The Peace and Greeting
The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you. Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD...

Prayer for Illumination
The Old Testament Lesson  Isaiah 60:1-6
The Psalter Lesson  Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Anthem  The Birthday of a King  W.H. Neidlinger
Theresa Roys, soprano Frank Roys, bass
In the little village of Bethlehem there lay a child one day, And the sky was bright with a holy light, O'er the place, where Jesus lay: Alleluia! O how the angels sang, Alleluia! how it rang, And the sky was bright with a holy light, “Twas the birthday of the King. “Twas a humble birthplace but oh! how much God gave to us that day, From the manger bed, what a path has led. What a perfect holy way: Alleluia! O how the angels sang, Alleluia! how it rang, And the sky was bright with a holy light, “Twas the birthday of the King.

The Epistle Lesson  Ephesians 3:1-12
Hymn 151  We Three Kings of Orient Are vv. 1-4
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 gladly raising worshiping God Most High.
Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. REFRAIN

The Gospel Lesson  Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon  The Sacred Journey  Kim Clayton
Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD...

Prayers, The Lord's Prayer...

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.

Hymn 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat. As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

I Saw Three Ships

arr. Anna Laura Page

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Today's Worship Leaders: Preacher: Kim Clayton; Liturgists: Michele Coffman, Brittany Harvey; Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey; Organist: Amy Shirk

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