

**January 4, 2026**  
**Epiphany Sunday**  
**Montevallo Presbyterian Church**

*What do you fear?  
Fear does not stop us.*

Prelude Carole Chomicz  
"Carol of the Bells" (Ukrainian Carol arr. by Mark Hayes)

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

Introit "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

Call to Worship Lena Rios

Arise, shine—for your light has come!  
**The glory of God has risen upon us.**

Come and adore the Savior of the nations.  
**We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn #143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Call to Confession

## Prayer of Confession

**God of glory,  
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
to reveal your love for all creation.  
We confess that we hide the brightness of your light  
by turning away from the poor,  
ignoring cries for justice,  
and not making peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us,  
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,  
that forgiven and renewed,  
we may show forth the light of your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

## The Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Musical Response      #447      "We Are Forgiven"

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

## The Peace

## Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading   Isaiah 60:1-6                    NRSV/UE

- [1] Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- [2] For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and God's glory will appear over you.
- [3] Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
  
- [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 in their nurses' arms.
- [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.
- [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.

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem      # 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

NRSV/UE

[1] 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 have 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.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us, **thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Hymn                    #152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

## Announcements and Invitations to Discipleship

### Litany for Epiphany

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 shall come to his light,  
and rulers will seek his radiance.  
**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

With justice and mercy, he will judge the nations  
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 lives.

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

~ a brief silence ~

God of endless light, you sent a star—  
rising in the darkness, guiding seekers and sages,  
overwhelming us with joy.

Let the splendor of your dawning light  
grow in us and in all the world  
until the whole creation shines with your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirits,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Offering/Offertory

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" -

Doxology

#609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures high and low.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Praise God, in Jesus fully known:***

***Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

## The Sacrament of Communion

### The Invitation

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in both the darkness and the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

#### [The Words of Institution]

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word  
dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth  
in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,  
we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Our Father who art in heaven...**

### The Communion of the People

*During the distribution of the elements,  
the people may sing #501 “Feed Us, Lord”.*

*After taking Communion, “Star Words” for 2026  
will be distributed to those who wish to receive them.*

### Prayer after Communion

**Loving and gracious God,  
from east and west,  
from north and south,**

**you have gathered us at your table,  
called us your beloved,  
and fed us with your body.  
Transform us to be your body in the world,  
and fortify us by your Spirit,  
so that we may serve you and our neighbors  
with great joy. Amen.**

A Time for Children      #487 “These Treasured Children”

*These treasured children present now  
are bound to us by sacred vow:  
with love, we make a heartfelt claim  
to welcome them in Jesus’ name.*

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #134      “Joy to the World”

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*