



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 1, 2023

Epiphany Sunday

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

*Promenade on "We Three Kings"
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Jack C. Goode

The Call to Worship

Leader: Darkness is banished!

People: God's light has come to us!

Leader: The brightness of the Star leads us!

People: We come to celebrate God's abiding love!

Leader: Glory be to God in the Highest!

People: And on earth, peace forever. Amen.

The Hymn No. 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

1. 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 light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. **Refrain**
 3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. **Refrain**
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**
 5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of promise and light,
open our eyes this morning,
that we may see your light in the darkness.**

**Open our hearts,
that we may perceive your promises
of justice and righteousness
fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.**

**Guide us, we pray,
on our quest to find the one who will truly set us free.**

May this time of worship bring us closer to you,
that the good news of the birth of light and love
will transform our lives. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer of Illumination

The Psalter pages 795

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone.

All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Is. 49:6
Gary Alan Smith

I will give you as a light to the
na - tions, my sal - va - tion to the ends of the earth.

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**
- 5 May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- 6 **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- 8 **May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth!**

Response

- 9 May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies like the dust!
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- 11 **May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**
- 12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
- 13 **He has pity on the weak and needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**
- 14 **From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Response

- 15 Long may he live,
 may gold of Sheba be given to him!
 May prayer be made for him continually,
 and blessings invoked for him all the day!
- 16 **May there be abundance of grain in the land;
 may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
 may its fruit be like Lebanon;**
 and may they blossom forth in the cities
 like the grass of the field!
- 17 **May his name endure for ever,
 his fame continue as long as the sun!**
 **May people bless themselves by him,
 all nations call him blessed!**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Hymn No. 237

Sing We Now of Christmas

FRENCH CAROL

1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
 Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain

- Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!
2. Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
 journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." **Refrain**
3. In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
 seated by the manger, watching the holy child. **Refrain**
4. From the eastern country came the kings afar,
 bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. **Refrain**
5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
 there was never a stable so like paradise. **Refrain**

The Homily

Dr. Tim Gerde

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
 who earnestly repent of their sin
 and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
 we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
 we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,
 and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

A Carol of the Kings
Brittany Brooks, soprano

Eric H. Thiman

They saw Him cradled in His mother's arms,
Those kings so great and fine,
With cattle breathing there among the straw,
Beside the Babe divine.

They took their gifts from pages standing by,
And knelt upon the floor,
To offer them in rev'ence and in love,
To worship and adore.

Then from the shed they slowly rode away
Upon their camels tall,
Within their hearts the mem'ry of a king,
So lovely, yet so small.

Irene Gass

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The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion,
remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
 in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
 as a holy and living sacrifice,
 in union with Christ's offering for us,
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
 All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.*

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Communion Music

Improvisation on "Greensleeves"

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Alfred Fedak

The Recessional Hymn No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

- Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *Refrain*
 3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*
 4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *Refrain*

The Benediction

The Postlude

We Three Kings

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John H. Hopkins, Jr.

***Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this morning
by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).***

***Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.***

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

2 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 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.

Announcements

BRING IN THE HARVEST - As our tradition, we are collecting food to donate to Belmont UMC Food Pantry. You don't need to bring all the items listed. Please bring what you can. We are collecting food until November 20. Please bring food to the sanctuary or old nursery. Items needed are:

- 1 can corned beef or stew
- 1 lb. box spaghetti
- 1 jar spaghetti sauce
- 3 boxes macaroni and cheese
- 1 box cake mix
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 large box of cereal
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 2 packages dried beans or peas
- 2 cans tuna or salmon
- 2 cans of fruit
- 2 cans of vegetable

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

November 6 – 20		Bring in the Harvest
November 6	11:30 am	<i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall
November 8	Noon	AA
	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting - Zoom
November 9	10:00 am	Wednesday Bible Study – Zoom
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
November 11	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
November 13	10:30 am	In-person and Livestream Worship
	11:30 am	<i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

November 17	1:00 pm	Smethie Circle
November 24-25		Office Closed for Thanksgiving