



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

PRAYER of DAY

God of every nation,
by the light of a wondrous star
you led wandering magi to the humble infant Jesus,
revealing to them your salvation for the world.
In the miraculous and the mundane,
in union with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace,
lead us to Christ,
that we may offer our worship
and serve him with sincerity of heart;
for he lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

Kings of Orient

arr. Paul Manz, 1992

WELCOME

CALL to WORSHIP

Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are

One: The Magi had a dream.

All: They dreamed of a Messiah. They dreamed of just rulers. They dreamed of a new day for all people.

One: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to act.

All: They journeyed to unknown places. They followed a star. They walked for days to get to Jesus.

One: So may we be like the Magi,

All: May our dreams inspire us to act as we worship the one true God.

HYMN of PRAISE, No. 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

TUNE: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*"Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"from Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! The eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.*

*While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are

God, we love to worship you when the stars are bright above us.

We love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

We love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

**Now and again, the stars disappear.
Our feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.
On these days, forgive us for giving up quickly.
Forgive us for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.
We want to be as brave as the Magi.
We want to persevere.
Guide our feet. Show us the stars. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION

Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are

Leader: God, we stand in your radiant light.

People: The light you sent to the world that saves us.

Leader: The light of Jesus Christ that forgives and redeems us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

TUNE: KINGS OF ORIENT

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

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

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.
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.
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.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Followers”

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

OFFERING

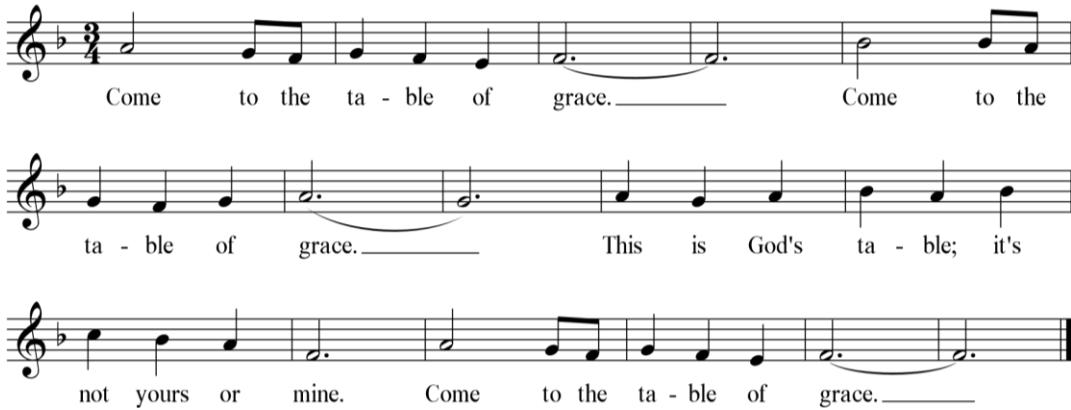
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

SHARING OUR JOYS and CONCERNS

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GATHERING SONG



Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____ Come to the
ta - ble of grace. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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.

SHARING THE BREAD and CUP

(Please prepare your morsels of bread and juice in your homes this morning, as we partake together in the unity of the Holy Spirit. All are welcomed to join in this Sacrament.)

CLOSING PRAYER

HYMN OF SENDING, No 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

TUNE: DIX

*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 not start to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Drummer Boy/Pat-a-Pan

arr. Diane Bish, 1984

*To give online or fulfill your pledge: FirstChurchLF.org/give

*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations

*For information on our Mission Food Depot: FirstChurchLF.org/mission-food-depot

Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday. Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton Roberts

Rev. Kristie Finley

Jim Cochrane, Director of Youth Ministries

Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries

Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist

Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Will Elliot, AV Support

Peter Elliot, AV Support