

Epiphany Sunday



Inas Abu Maamar, 36, embraces the body of her five-year-old niece Saly, who was killed in an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza Strip.

Reuters photographer Mohammad Salem won the 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award for this image.

[Mohammed Salem/Reuters]

January 5, 2025

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...

an adventure for life!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

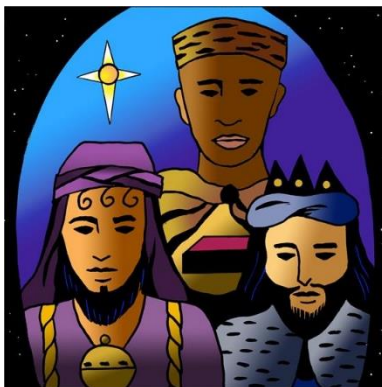
- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Please silence your cell phone.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.

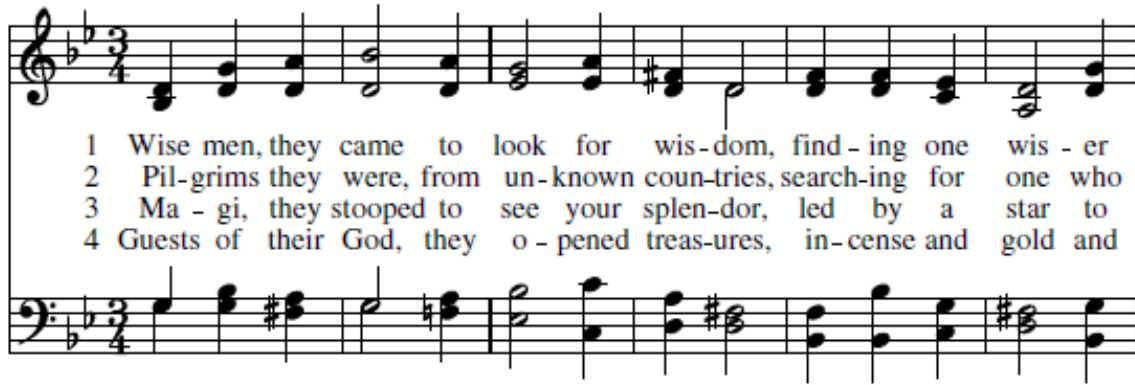
Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* setting by John Carter

Welcome

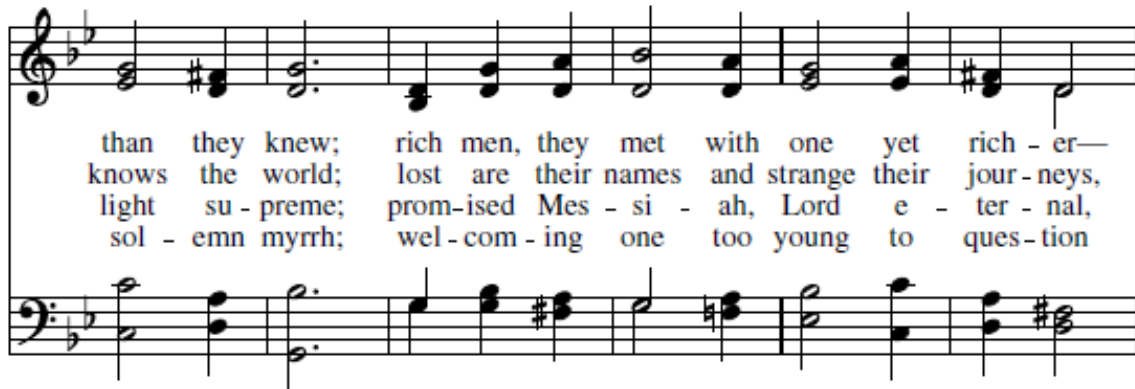


Please stand in body or spirit

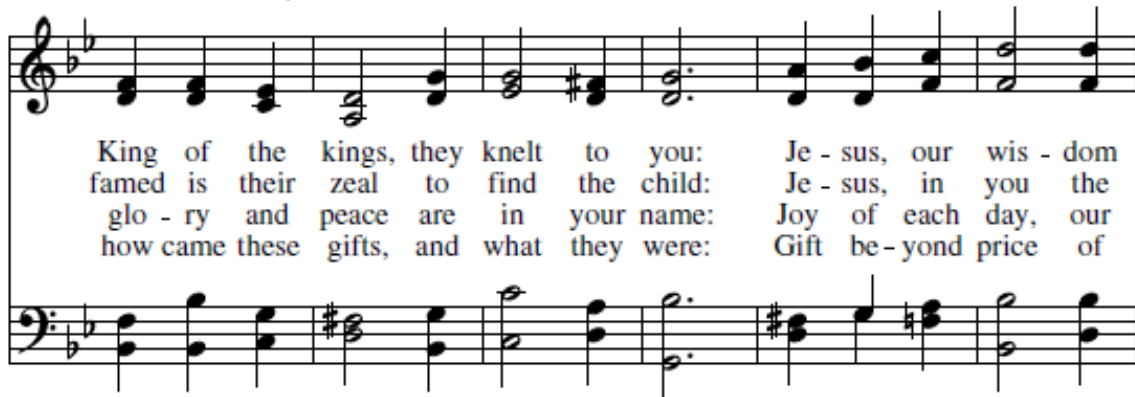
Hymn Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom



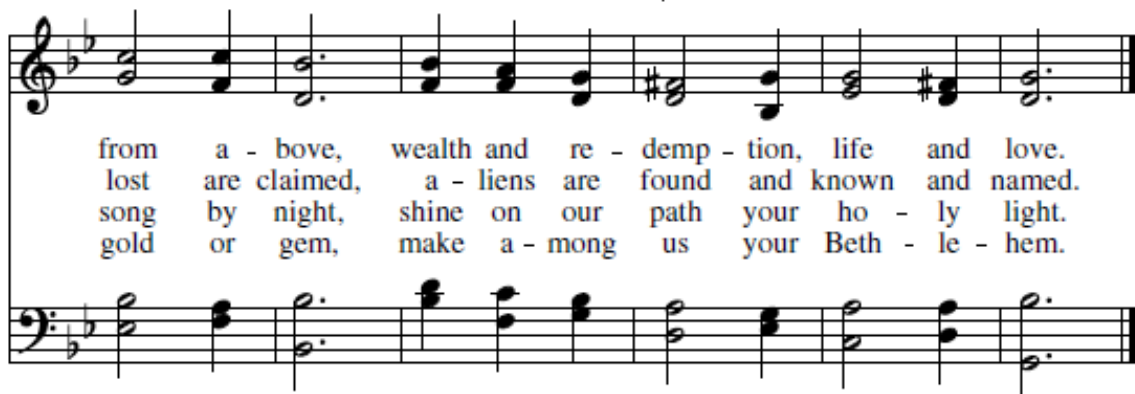
1 Wise men, they came to look for wis-dom, find-ing one wis-er
2 Pil-grims they were, from un-known coun-tries, search-ing for one who
3 Ma-gi, they stooped to see your splen-dor, led by a star to
4 Guests of their God, they o-pened treas-ures, in-cense and gold and



than they knew; rich men, they met with one yet rich-er—
knows the world; lost are their names and strange their jour-neys,
light su-preme; prom-ised Mes-si-ah, Lord e-ter-nal,
sol-lemn myrrh; wel-com-ing one too young to ques-tion



King of the kings, they knelt to you: Je-sus, our wis-dom
famed is their zeal to find the child: Je-sus, in you the
glo-ry and peace are in your name: Joy of each day, our
how came these gifts, and what they were: Gift be-yond price of



from a-bove, wealth and re-demp-tion, life and love.
lost are claimed, a-liens are found and known and named.
song by night, shine on our path your ho-ly light.
gold or gem, make a-mong us your Beth-le-hem.

WORDS: Christopher Idle (1938-)
MUSIC: Georg Neumark (1621-1681)
Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

NEUMARK
9.8.9.8.8.8.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

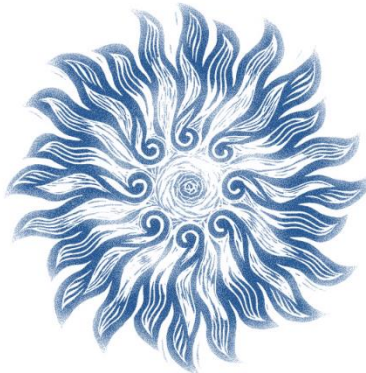
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated



WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading

Isaiah 60:1-5 (Contemporary English Version)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Jerusalem, stand up! Shine!

Your new day is dawning.

The glory of the Lord

shines brightly on you.

The earth and its people

are covered with darkness,

but the glory of the Lord

is shining upon you.

Nations and rulers

will come to the light

of your dawning day.

The Lord said: Open your eyes! Look around!

Crowds are coming.

Your sons are on their way

from distant lands;

your daughters are being carried

like little children.

When you see this,

your faces will glow;

your hearts will pound

and swell with pride.

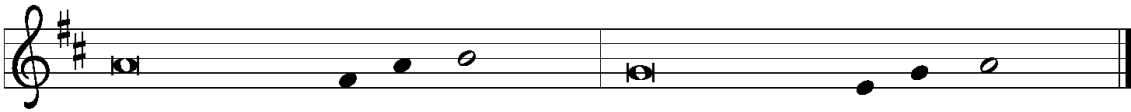
Treasures from across the sea

and the wealth of nations

will be brought to you.

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

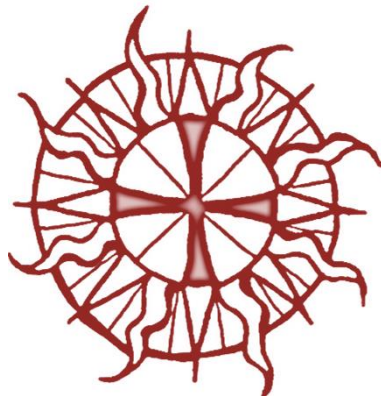
**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

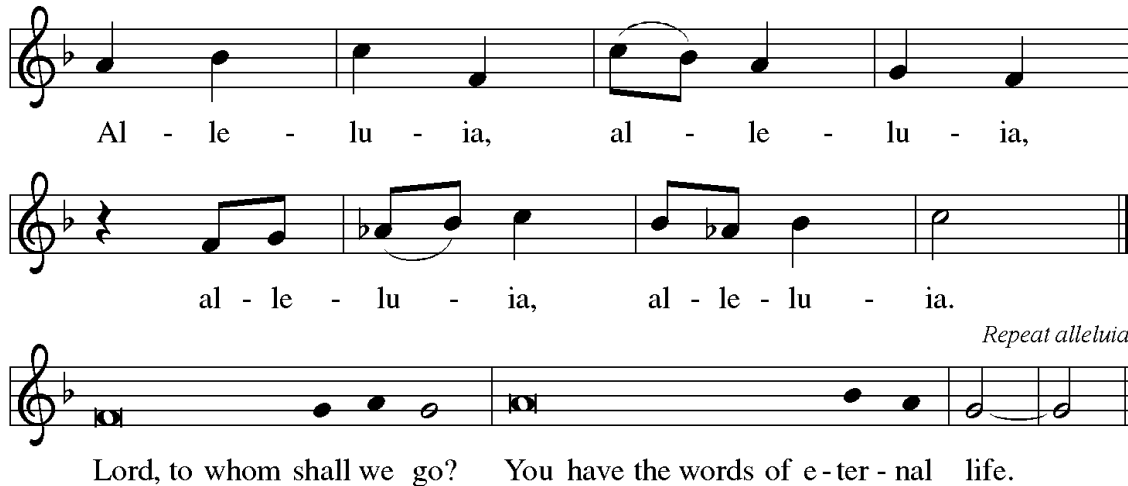
He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**



Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12** (Contemporary English Version)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Spoken Reflection

THE HUMAN NEED TO LAMENT

In "*For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*," W. H. Auden has the three wise men say together, "To discover how to be human now is the reason we follow this star."

Musical Reflection

Wexford Carol

setting by John Carter for his friend Don Luck
Senior Choir

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold
They did our Saviour Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid
And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life
Who came on earth to end all strife.

A Lament Over Another Year of Violence in the Holy Land and Around the World

As the bloodshed in Gaza, the West Bank, and the surrounding nations continues, we cry out to God:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. LORD hear my voice!

(Psalm 130:1)

Compassionate and loving God, we stand with those who cry in anguish in Palestine, Lebanon, and Israel. With those who have lost their lives to violence, those who mourn, those who have been displaced, those who are held unjustly against their will, those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. We stand with the traumatized, the injured, the children, the elderly and the frail.

Lord, break our hearts with what breaks your heart.

If you, O LORD, kept records of wrongdoing, who could stand?

(Psalm 130:3).

We come to you in sorrow for the violence and hatred that we are each capable of carrying in our hearts. Forgive our inability to see your image in others.

Lord, give us the courage and compassion to see those we have been taught to hate as beautiful and broken people just like us.

Have mercy on us, O LORD have mercy upon us for we have known more than enough violence.

(Psalm 123:3).

We pray for an end to the fighting and violence. We pray for those who are without shelter, clean water, food, electricity, medical care and safety. God of justice and peace, may the world's leaders have the imagination to envision a future of creativity and human flourishing, rather than destruction and death.

Lord, give leaders, and give us, the courage to face the wounds of violence within and around us, so we might be freed to love without fear.

I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

(Psalm 120:7)

We pray for the courage to speak up for peace, to challenge the hatred in our own hearts and minds, and to do what we can to make for the peace that builds our common life as the nations of your world.

Lord, give us eyes to see as you see, so we might look into each other's faces, and see peace. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by the group "Embrace the Middle East")

Community Prayers

Let us pray....

After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

Your mercy is great.

Amen.

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreiness, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, son-in-law Brandon James, and her niece Olivia Theissen, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Karen Kent, Ruth Boys, Al Debelak, Barbara Hairston and family, Jon Disbro, Eileene Welker, the family of Linda Williams' brother John Huber who died on Christmas Eve

For the people of Grace Lutheran Church in Pickerington

For Redeemer community members Michele, Jon, Elaine, and Jill Disbro

Time with the Young People

Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug.

For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.

We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshipping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal.

Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.



In body or spirit, please stand

Offertory

You Are Holy

1*

You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

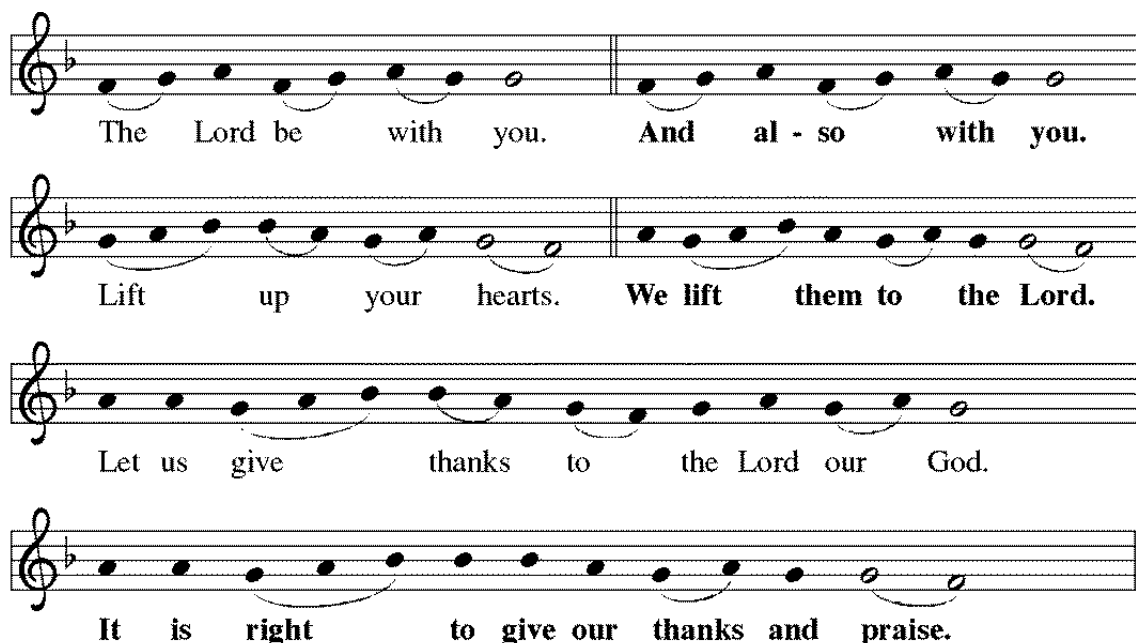
Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling

Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America,
South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right and good to remember that, in a refugee child playing under a star, in an unknown young man requesting baptism, in a wandering preacher refreshed by water from a woman's hand, God was waiting to be recognized and known, to transform seeing and change the world.

In the routine smallness of everyday life, in the painful uncertainty of struggle and transition, in the timeless grace of hospitality, and the gifts of bread and wine, God is waiting to be recognized and known, to transform our seeing and change our world.

Here, at this table, under the welcoming light of a morning star, the God of epiphanies waits to be encountered. So – though you may be weary and worn by your journey or stained and sore with travel – look up and see the star, lay aside your packs, and enter with joy for God waits here: to refresh and renew, to comfort and restore, to challenge and transform, to know, and be known.

Now, gathered around this table, we recall and recount how the Epiphany God appeared in the actions and words of Jesus as he shared a last supper with his friends in which Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me." And after supper, Jesus took the cup and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink this, do so to remember me."

Recalling and treasuring these things, we join our voices with those of all creation to recognize and celebrate the grace and goodness of God present and at work in the world.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Epiphany God, send down your Holy Spirit now on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine – that we might recognize and know you present with us here, and in receiving the gifts of your love find ourselves renewed. By this meal, renew our commitment to make real the prayer Jesus teaches:

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.
 So do we.

Please be seated

You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.

Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Hymn

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer of Thanksgiving


Emmanuel – bright Morning Star: Gift us the grace and generosity to respond freely and fully, whatever you might ask of us. So may our loving and living become places of epiphany where you can be recognized and known, and the transforming life of your Kingdom unleashed.

Amen.

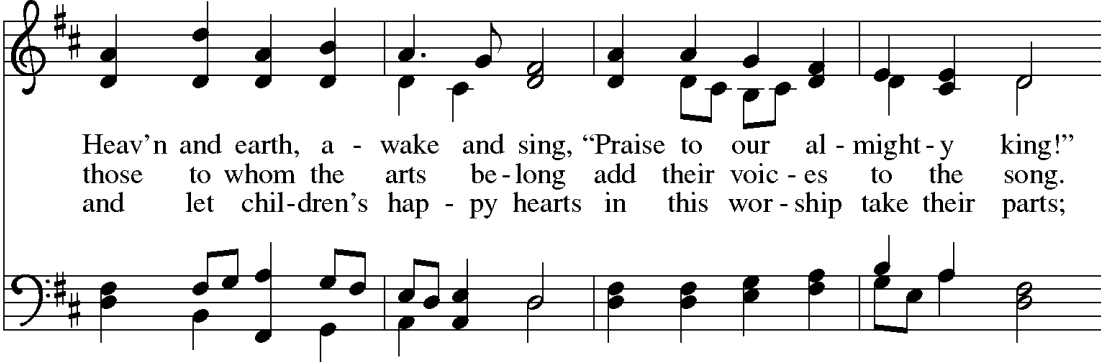
WE ARE SENT

Hymn

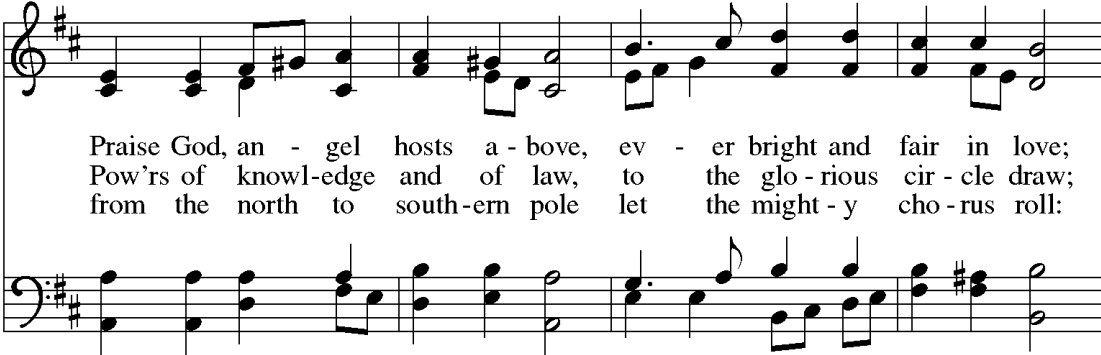
Let the Whole Creation Cry



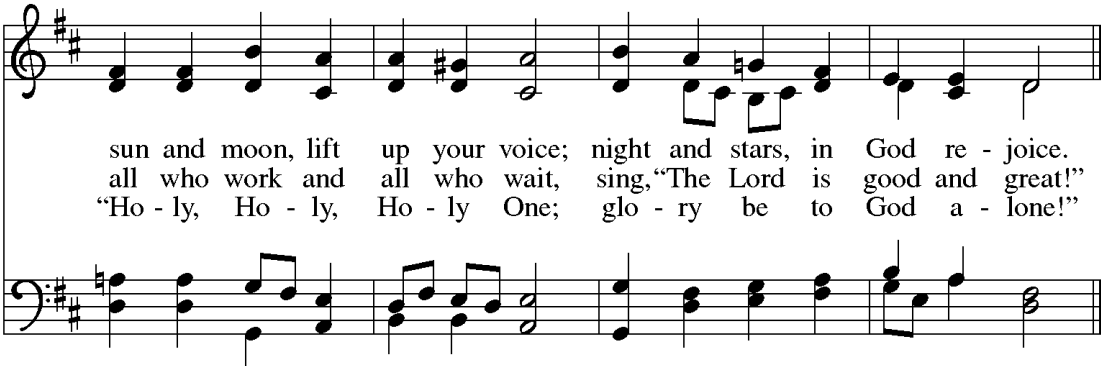
1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.

Blessing

Amen.

Announcements

Postlude


We Three Kings

arr. Patti Drennan

CCLI License # 11287796; One License A-728105
 New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.
 The Message (MSG) ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 Eugene H. Peterson

Adult Ed
 Sundays - 11:15 a.m.
Getting to Know You
 January 5 - Jolly Old Nick
 Nick will talk about his life and times, and how his spirit lives on. And you'll have a chance to ask questions as well.

In-Person and Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475541581?pwd=PEyYLFqECnuQBzf9bSbagxGY44GXcU.1>
 Meeting ID: 834 7554 1581 = Passcode: 752230
 Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Tuesday Bible Study
 Beginning 7 January
The stories of Elijah and Elisha
Tuesdays + 1:00pm

In-Person and Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86259497992?pwd=zbqyreRTMc2DXXPiJD5mQRc5UIxjdA.1>
 Meeting ID: 862 5949 7992
 Passcode: 830218
 Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



RLC Serves
First English Lutheran Church
Community Dinner
Thursday, January 9
 Food donations and volunteers needed

Adult Ed
Sundays - 11:15 a.m.

Getting to Know You

January 12 - Donna Voelkel

As a way to deepen our relationships with each other by getting to know each other better, Pastor Dave will interview a variety of folks about their lives. And you'll have a chance to ask questions as well.

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475541581?pwd=PEyYLFqECnuQBzf9bSbagxGY44GXcU.1>

Meeting ID: 834 7554 1581 = Passcode: 752230
Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Monthly Sunday School for all ages!
Sunday, January 12 == 11:15 am



Sunday, January 19
10:00 am Worship and Fellowship

Join us as we host a combined worship service with our neighbors at
Christ United Methodist Church.

Pastor Willis Johnson and Pastor Dave will offer a dialogue message.

Following worship, there will be a potluck where folks will be encouraged to talk about issues that Martin Luther King Jr. Day bring up.



January 26
11:15 am
IN-PERSON only
Meal following

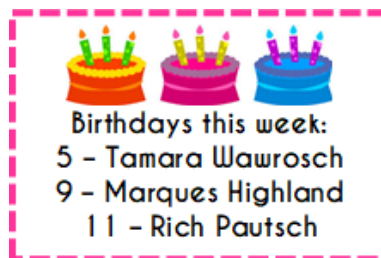
OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Reader	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Jennifer Young
ASL Interpreter	Marilyn Floyd
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Vergers	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthause, Cathy Oldham
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Scott Steiner
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence

Noisy Offering will go to B.R.E.A.D.

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER JANUARY 5 – 12

Today	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:15 pm	Outreach Team
Thursday	4:30 pm	RLC serves dinner at FELC
Saturday	9-11:30 am	Council Retreat
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education



1555 South James Road, Columbus OH 43227
614.237.1263 + info@RedeemerLuth.com + www.RedeemerLuth.com
Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America