

Order of Worship
EPIPHANY SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
9:30 am – January 7, 2024

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

We Three Kings
Kyle Hanks, organ

arr. Tom Birchwood

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Bruce Miller, liturgist

So often lately the world can look cold and dark.

We long to feel your presence near.

We read of war in many places,

And we long for peace.

We see injustice and cruelty,

And yearn for your righteousness.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Yes, come Lord Jesus, come.

OPENING HYMN

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

UMH 248

Words and music: Public Domain.

1. On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

Refrain: Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. **(Refrain)**
3. God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. **(Refrain)**
4. On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. **(Refrain)**

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12

Bruce Miller, liturgist

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **(Refrain)**
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. **(Refrain)**

MESSAGE

Pastor Diane Rehfield

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Carols of the Quest from Tapestry of Light

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Piano

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of Peace and Hope, we thankfully give these generous gifts as an expression of all that you have given us. We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, your gift of a babe in a manger is the one that truly matters. We prayerfully ask you to increase our ability to help others discover anew the best Christmas message ever, the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In his name, we pray. Amen

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, like Herod and his staff, we confess that sometimes we don't really want to know too much about who Christ is, or what following Him might require of us. We go through the motions of being Christians, but fail to do the deep work of asking ourselves what that really means. Forgive us God, and help us to have the courage to really listen to your Spirit, to ask the big questions, and to trust that with your love and our faith in that, we can indeed do big things that really make a difference, even if sometimes the actions themselves are small. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The very nature of God is love. Jesus said we are to forgive one another "Seventy times seven" times. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

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

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

**Sung: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Sung: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: Amen.

(UM Book of Worship, The Methodist Publishing House, ©1972)

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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 trespasses, as we forgive those who 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.

***BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, , to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

COMMUNION MUSIC

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

VFUMC Praise Team

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 CCLI Song # 7071972

SENDING HYMN

We Three Kings

UMH 254

Words and Music: Public Domain.

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]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

What Star Is This?

Franklin Ritter

Kyle Hanks, organ

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Prayer Requests

Woodland Hills UMC —Pastor Seung-il Whang

Van Nuys UMC—Pastor Sang Ho Yi

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

Carols of the Quest

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.
Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign.
Christ came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all;
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.
O sing a song of Bethlehem, of seekers from afar
Who traveled through the wilderness, inspired by heaven's star.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills the earth today,
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.
O star of wonder, star of might, shine down on us we pray.
As with gladness, kings of old did the guiding star behold.
Burn bright your hopeful message clear in ev'ry heart today.
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.
O Morning Star, rise in our lives and lead us to Love's place,
And teach us to be stars of light and people of your grace.
Make us people of your grace.

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