The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Come and Worship the Lord

January 8, 2023

Today's Lay Reader: Judy Pine

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come!
People: We come, ready to receive the gifts God offers us every day.
Leader: Christmas Day may be over, but God's gifts keep coming!
People: Gifts kept coming to Jesus too. What did the magi give, and what did those gifts mean?

Prelude

Noel

Alexandre Guilmant

Hymn

(all 5 verses)



Opening Prayer

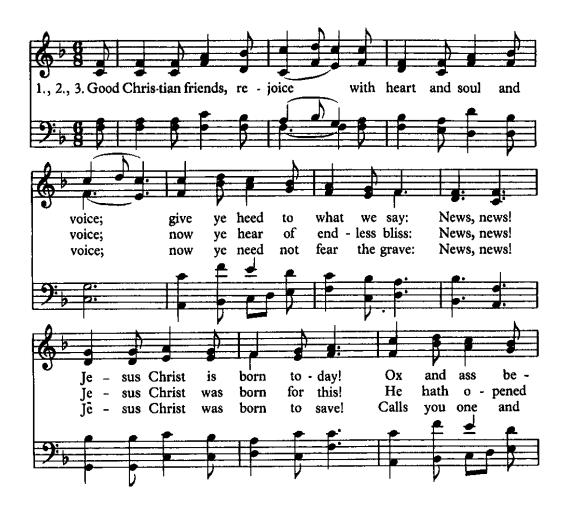
Almighty God, every good gift comes from you. The giving and receiving of gifts is one way we can give and receive love. But it shouldn't be the only way, and Christmas shouldn't be the only day. As we celebrate epiphany, we remember that Christmas is a gift for every day. When we receive that gift, we then must share it. Help us to be cheerful givers who give freely! Amen.

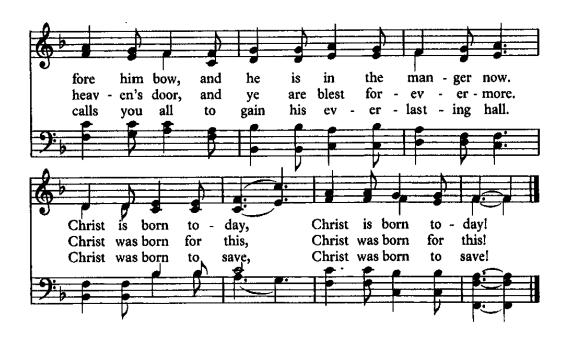
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice





Senior Choir

Worship the Light

David Catherwood

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God **People:** Thanks be to God

Message

The Gifts of the Magi

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Symphonie of Noels

Michel Richard Delalande

*Offertory Hymn Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

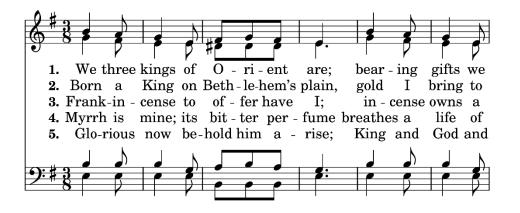
A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on **page 7** of this document.

Hymn

We Three Kings

(all 5 verses)





Benediction

Postlude

Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob

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A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: 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.

Confession and Pardon

- People: 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.
- Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!
- People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! All: Thanks be to God!

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

The people sing their response:



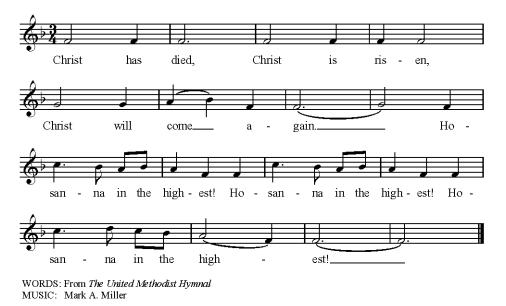
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The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:



Memorial Acclamation

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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 forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup