



Lacey Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship

January 3, 2021

We're happy that you've joined us on Zoom to worship. We will be recording this service which will be shared on our website soon. If you do not wish to be seen on the recording, you may turn your video off.

Please keep your microphone muted throughout the service, unless invited to unmute and join others in conversation.

If you wish to view only the speaker during the service, be sure to click on the "View" button in the upper right corner, and toggle to "Speaker". If you'd like to see everyone in attendance, choose "Gallery".

Prelude

Joe Murrow

Welcome

Cherie Hankal

Call to Worship Isaiah 60:1

Joe Murrow

Arise, shine; for your light has come.
Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!

A Song of Praise "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Peals through the earth and skies

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Prayer of Confession Prayer of Confession Isaiah 60:2 Psalm 72:12-14

Merciful God, Light of the world,
we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin.

You deliver the poor and the helpless,
but we have ignored their cry.

You heal the wounded and save the oppressed
but we have placed our trust in other saviours.

Forgive us, we pray.
Awaken in us sincere repentance
that we may shine with light of your saving grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness Isaiah 60:5

Sharing The Peace of Christ With One Another

(You are invited to join a small group breakout room, or stay in the main room if you wish.)

As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Young Disciples

Christy Sumner

Scripture Reading Matthew 2

Rev. Bill Ward

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."^[c]

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

Message "A Tale of Five Kings"

Rev. Bill

Ward

Reflection Questions

1. God used a means prohibited to the Israelites to reach out to the Magi! In what ways might your own experiences, expectations and presuppositions limit your perspective on how God might reach out to people with very different (or no) religious sensibilities? How might challenging those limitations open you up to receiving more of what God is revealing? How is God's Word a significant check & balance to that?
2. Some days I have great desire for God and openness of heart. Some days I just want God to heal my hurts and help me hang on to what I've got. How do you navigate that spectrum between being more like Herod and being more like the Magi?

If you have a specific need or concern for which you would like to have someone pray, please email prayer@laceypres.org. Your request will be shared with the Care Team. If you wish to have someone call you, include your phone number. If you would prefer a written note, include your mailing address.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song for Sending *“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Invitations

Cherie Hankal

Benediction

Cherie Hankal

Fellowship Time on Zoom begins about 10 minutes after the worship service ends.

Use the same link that was given for the worship service today.

Rev. Bill Ward serves Little Church in Lakewood as Pastor to Boomers and Builders. He and his wife Lori (who teaches Sunday School at Lakewoodgrace) have four children and 3 grandchildren. They live in Lakewood and enjoy camping, hiking, scenic road trips, cooking, gardening and Bill especially enjoys cycling. Bill has always been passionate about missions, especially the unique mission of the smaller church and “frontier missions” (taking the Gospel where it has not been before). Bill has served the Presbyteries of Seattle, North Puget Sound (now Northwest Coast) and Inland Northwest in a wide range of capacities, including as commissioner to the Synod of Alaska Northwest and to the 221st General Assembly (2014).



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