

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Endless Praise

Boesiger

WELCOME

- Christmas Décor Clean-up, today following the worship service.
- Worship Committee, Tuesday (1/9) at 7 PM.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday (1/28) immediately following worship. Annual Reports will be available for review on (1/21). **Please email your committee reports to the church office by 1/16.** A Potluck will follow the Congregational Meeting. Please sign-up in the narthex.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather,

MANY: A community of faith in God's subversive world.

ONE: We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light,

MANY: To remember that love will always be more powerful than death,

ONE: And to trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.

MANY: We gather, people of faith in the light of God's world.

ONE: Welcome to worship!

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!**

REGENT SQUARE

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several white stars of varying sizes hanging from thin white vertical lines against a light beige background.

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!**



**Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!**



**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!**



RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

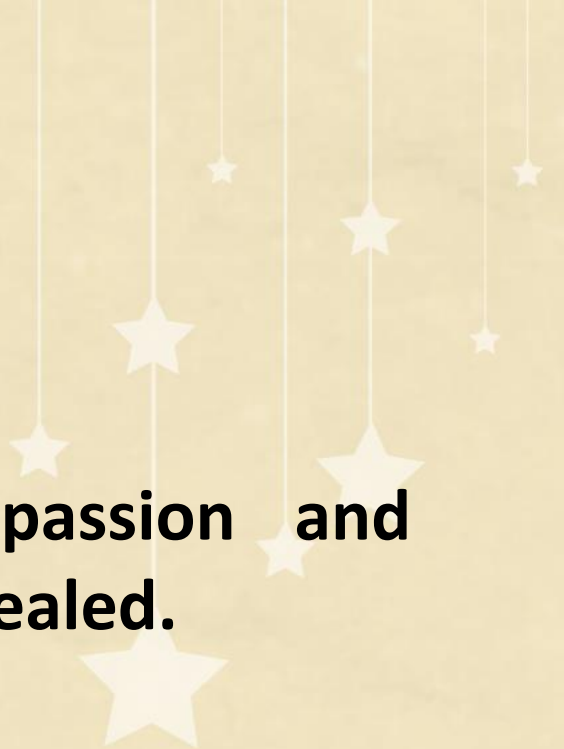
ONE: God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.

MANY: We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.

ONE: We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules.

MANY: Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world.

ONE: Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another.



MANY: Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.

ONE: In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray.

MANY: Amen.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: The love of God is revealed and given to us freely, joyfully, for all eternity, no matter where we are on our journey.

MANY: Rejoice, dear friends! This is the Good News of our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6


READER'S THEATER

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

The Wisdom of Dreamers

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

A decorative graphic in the top right corner of the page. It consists of several white, five-pointed stars of varying sizes. Each star is attached to a thin, vertical white line that extends upwards towards the top edge of the page, giving the impression of stars hanging from above. The stars are scattered across the right side of the page, with some appearing larger and more prominent than others.

HYMN

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!**

KINGS OF ORIENT

A decorative graphic in the top right corner featuring several white stars of varying sizes hanging from thin white lines, set against a light beige background.

**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!**



**Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worshiping God Most High.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!**



**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
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!
Sounds 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!**



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING SENTENCE

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(Kevin Kauermann, cello & Michael Pugh, flute /vocals)

Emmanuel, God With Us

Grant, Eaton and Marshall

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table (Choir)

The Bread and the Wine Are Here

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Prayers of the People



LOVE FEAST

HYMN

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as 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.

**A WORD AND A LIGHT:
RECEIVING OUR STAR WORDS
CLOSING PRAYER**



HYMN

Jesus, the Light of the World

Hark! the herald angels sing.

Jesus, the light of the world.

Glory to the newborn King,

Jesus, the light of the world.

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.

Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.

O, shine all around us by day and by night.

Jesus, the light of the world.

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

A decorative graphic in the top right corner featuring several white stars of varying sizes hanging from thin white lines, set against a light beige background.

**Joyful all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**



**Christ by highest heaven adored;
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**



Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail, the Sun or righteousness!

Jesus, the light of the world.

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.

Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.

O, shine all around us by day and by night.

Jesus, the light of the world.



RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls and minds;


MANY: May the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day;

ONE: And may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

arr. Boesiger

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several white stars of varying sizes, each suspended by a thin white vertical line, creating a hanging starburst effect.

WORSHIP NOTES:

A note on “Star Words:” The use of star words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper, then arranged, most commonly face down, on the Communion Table or in a large basket. At some point during the Epiphany service, participants are invited to draw a word from the basket or off the Table, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. You are encouraged to trust the word you have drawn, and not to replace the word. Place your star word somewhere so you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

The **Call to Worship** is written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space].

<http://holdthisspace.org.au>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Rev. Mindi and posted on her Rev-o-lution website.

<http://rev-o-lution.org>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>

The **Prayers of the People** and the Closing Prayer are written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed and art part of the “How Does a Weary World Rejoice?” Advent resources provided by A Sanctified Art. <https://sanctifiedart.org>.

The **Benediction** is written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, and posted on his Kir-shalom website.

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