

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

The Spirit That Dwells Within

David Paxton

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Facilities Committee, Monday (1/9) at 7 PM.
- Worship Committee, Tuesday (1/10) at 7 PM.
- Men's Breakfast, Wednesday (1/11) at 8:30 AM at Robin Hood.
- In-Reach / Outreach Committee, Wednesday (1/11) at 10 AM.
- Sharing Session: Advertising with Dana Winslow, Wednesday (1/11) at 2 PM.
- Annual Reports Due next Sunday (1/15)
- MLK Day of Service Interfaith Panel Discussion and Worship, next Monday (1/16) at 6 PM at Macedonia Baptist Church in Newtown.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gracious and all loving God, you call to us across deep waters and dark places.

MANY: Yours is the light that guides us and the voice we follow.

ONE: We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you.

MANY: May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to your will.

ONE: In the name of your beloved Son we pray.

MANY: Amen.

HYMN

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Watchman, tell us of the night,

What its signs of promise are.

Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,

See that glory-beaming star!

Watchman, doth its beauteous ray

Aught of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day,

Promised day of Israel.

**Watchman, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth!**

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight;
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity, we pray you would dazzle us into your presence this new year.

MANY: When we would close them, open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

ONE: When we would sleep away the opportunity to meet you, awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary.

MANY: Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present. Heal us, that we might be healers.

ONE: Where we are divided within and between one another, reconcile us to you and to ourselves, that our living might be reconciling.

MANY: Where we would hurry through our days, stop us often with news that is good; with hope that holds; with truth that transforms; with a Word tailored to this trail we're on.

ONE: May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night, as we travel into the gift of a new year.

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

MANY: 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 OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

READER'S THEATER

Matthew 2:1-12

Narrator: Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked,

Wise Men: “Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him.”

Narrator: When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too.

(Congregation: Oooooo!)

Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered,

Priests/Teachers: “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

Prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah. A ruler will come from you. He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'

Narrator: Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them,

Herod: "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

Narrator: The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy.

Wise Men: YAHOO!

Narrator: They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

SERMON

The Blunder Boys

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S 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

(Trio: Steve Cocchia, Andy Chen, Michael Pugh)

We Three Kings

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table and the Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the 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 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, for ever and ever. Amen

HYMN

I Saw Three Ships

CHOIR: I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

**CONG: And who was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And who was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?**

CHOIR: Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

**CONG: Pray whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
Pray whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?**

CHOIR: O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

**ALL: And all the bells on Earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on Earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.**

RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: May the path Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth,

MANY: To bring light to those who sit in darkness,

ONE: To bring out those who live in bondage,

MANY: To bring new things to all creation:

ONE: May this path run through our life.

MANY: May we be the road Christ takes.

POSTLUDE

Chorale Postlude (Roger Wilson)

ES IST DAS HEIL

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, and posted on **Kir-shalom**.

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-or01sm.php>

The **Prayer of Confession** is adapted from a prayer written by Glenn Mitchell, and posted on MINemergent's Daily Communique.

The **Prayer of Thanksgiving** was originally posted on the Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship) of the Christian Aid website. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>

The Benediction is written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook**.

<http://paintedprayerbook.com>

Hymns are from the *Glory to God Hymnal*, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017.

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