



The magi undertook a long, difficult and dangerous journey to reach Bethlehem,  
**help us to overcome all difficulties to come to You, O Christ Child.**

The magi traveled in snow, bitter and cold weather to reach Bethlehem,  
**help us to remove all coldness of heart as we come to You, O Christ Child.**

The magi were vulnerable to theft, murder and pillaging as they travelled to Bethlehem,  
**help us to leave behind all dangers and deceitfulness as we come to You, O Christ Child.**

The magi brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Bethlehem,  
**may we also bring our gifts, as poor as we are, for You, O Christ Child.**

The magi returned home another way, enriched by being in the presence of their Lord and Savior,  
**may we leave our worship today, O Christ Child, with you dwelling in us, renewed by Love divine.**

Your Epiphany, O Christ, revealed You as the Savior of all peoples.

**Your Epiphany, O Christ, brought humankind out of darkness into Your glorious light.**

Your Epiphany, O Christ, broke down the barriers between nations and races.

**Your Epiphany, O Christ, brought unity and peace to all peoples.**

Your Epiphany, O Christ, proclaimed truth and goodness to all who welcome You as the Light that shines in our darkness.

**Come, let us worship the Lord our Maker.**

#### GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world,  
who shone in the Bethlehem manger,  
and who spreads the Spirit's rays,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Hear the Angels

Hear the wise men sing; come and worship  
Christ the child, who was born to be king.  
Hear the wise men sing, "Come and worship.  
Gold, spice, and myrrh are the gifts that we bring."

Alleluia! Wise men sing!  
Alleluia! A Savior is born,  
alleluia! Christ is coming.  
All of heaven and earth, adore.

Hear the wise men sing; come and worship  
Christ the child, who was born to be king.  
Hear the wise men sing, "Come and worship.  
Gold, spice, and myrrh are the gifts that we bring."

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. Lutheran Book of Worship  
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#### GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

Pastor Becky Schanely

## HYMN OF THE DAY God of Love, We've Known Division

God of love, we've known division and we've seen its awful cost.  
We have struggled as a nation, and there's much that we have lost.  
We have been a house divided — and, divided, we can't stand.  
May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

Turn us, Lord, from what divides us — fear that drives us far apart,  
greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.  
May we seek what brings together — hearts that bear each other's pain,  
care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.  
May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.  
May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;  
May we serve with one another — loving others, loving you.

You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.  
It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.  
May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.  
Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") ([MIDI](#))

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## NICENE CREED

Together with people of all times and places, we profess the words of our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

We Three Kings – arr. Krug  
Handbell Choir

Celebrate Christmas with Twelve Bells – arr. Jason W. Krug  
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#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God..., in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

That God will receive these prayers, for the sake of the divine infant before whom we kneel, we pray, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### 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 and ever. Amen.**

#### BLESSING

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies – Burkhardt

Tune: St. Stephen, arr. Michael Burkhardt, organ  
MorningStar Music Publishers  
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### Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Jan 11 at 7:30 PM – Council Meeting  
Tuesday, Jan 12 at 7:30PM – PUB THEOLOGY (Zoom)  
Saturday, Jan 16 from 9-11AM – Food Collection and Star Word pick-up  
Sunday, Jan 17 at 9:30AM – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany worship  
Tuesday, Jan 26 at 7:30PM – Book Club (Zoom)  
Friday, Jan 29 from 2-7PM – BLOOD DRIVE

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Worship Attendance 12/24/2020 – 3PM Zoom - 41 households 7:30PM Zoom – 63 households		
Giving Amounts	Total received between 12/5-12/26/2020	Amount Needed between 12/5-12/26/2020
General Fund	\$15,514.50	\$16,377
Building Fund	\$753.75	
<p><i>Weekly average is based on the 2021 budget. A weekly building fund amount needed is no longer reported as the building fund has been used for the mortgage, which has been paid off. All other building expenses are included in General Fund budget and giving.</i></p> <p><i>The above numbers include electronic giving.</i></p> <p><i>Mint duty is being done every other week for the time being.</i></p>		

Capital Campaign Activity Update	
Capital Campaign Contributions Pledged	\$ 260,000.00
Capital Campaign Contributions received between 11/23-12/5/2020	\$148.75
<b>Capital Campaign Contributions received to date</b>	<b>\$ 248,560.15</b>

The **Cemetery committee** requests that you remove any Christmas decorations from Frieden's cemetery prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be clearing away any remaining decorations on that date. If you have any questions, please contact Evey Koffel at 215-264-6099.

**Pub Theology** will be meeting this Tuesday via zoom at 7:30pm. Pour yourself a glass of your favorite beverage and join the conversation.

**2021 Star Words** are now available. There are three ways to get yours:

- 1) come by the church after worship by noon today;
- 2) pick one up Saturday from 9-11am, during Food Collection time;
- 3) contact the office to have one mailed or to arrange a time to pick one up.