

First United Church

Sunday, January 2, 2022 -- 10:30 a.m. – Pre-Epiphany

Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

Gathering

Prelude: Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome, Announcements, Candle-lighting

Introit: What Songs were Sung John Jacob Niles
Beth Horst, soloist

Call to Worship:

The story is that, in ancient times, learned ones were guided by a star.

We too come seeking God's guidance, looking for signs of God's presence in many different places.

We are led by teachers and mentors and spiritual friends.

We are fed through the nurture of family and loved ones.

We are inspired when corporations and nations practice good stewardship and act justly.

We watch for your influence upon them and invite your Spirit to be at work in our midst.

Inspire us, O God, and lead us into your future.

Yes, inspire us, O God, and lead us into your future.

Prayer of Approach:

God of promise,

God of radiant Light, on this first Sunday of the year we join in worship to proclaim our trust in you. We come to worship with joy and adoration and our attentiveness. We come to experience the love and wonder of this blessed season. Unfold more of your mystery, that our minds and our eyes and our hearts may be guided by your light and focused on your wisdom for our own journeys. So we pray in the name of Jesus, Light of the World. Amen

Hymn: "The First Nowell" VU 91

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 Nancy Lennox

Story Sermon: “A Latter-Day Wise One”

Time of Offering:

Prayer of Dedication:

We too, like the wise ones, bring our gifts most rare. Hearts full of yearning, hands offering to help, outreach activities seeking to bring a ray of hope and uplift to peoples’ lives, prayerful spirits, and financial resources to support the ministry of this congregation. May some light like that in the star that guided the wise ones be reflected and transmitted through our gifts. So may the love and transforming power of the Christ child be channeled to bring life and renewal to other lives and to our world. Amen

Call to Prayer For God Alone

VU 953

Prayers of the People

Our Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

- **Hymn** “As With Gladness Men of Old”

VU 81

- **Blessing**

Postlude – Noël Suisse (abridged)

Louis Claude Daquin