

Sunday January 3rd 2021

Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: The Magi came from many places, following a star.

All: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.

One: The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

All: We too bring gifts - ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

One: Shepherds and Magi - the meek and the mighty - all were welcome in Bethlehem.

All: We, too, come to Bethlehem and then continue our lives rejoicing.

We rise to sing hymn: **VU# 81** "As With Gladness Men Of Old"

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Glorious God, grant us the courage to follow Christ's birth star, wherever your light would lead us; grant us the wisdom to follow the kings of old, as they left the safety of their homes to find the infant Jesus.

Grant us the purity of heart to forsake the glitter of things that do not endure, and embrace the brightness of your glory. Amen.

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn **VU# 91** "The First Nowell"

Prayer of Confession

One: Living God, your star guided the Magi to Jesus your Son, but it was a disturbing and difficult journey.

All: When we lack the courage to venture into unfamiliar territory, O God, forgive us.

One: Your star led the Magi to grapple with Herod, an evil person.

All: When we fail to name a source of evil, or fail to affirm the good, O God, forgive us.

One: Your star came to rest over the birthplace of Jesus Christ, where gifts were given to him.

All: When we fail to bring our best gifts to serve you, O God, forgive us.

(A time of quiet reflection on the prayer we have just shared)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Pardon and peace are yours!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Anthem: Marty Goetz – “*Arise, Shine*”

Sermon: Outsiders No Longer

Hymn VU# - “We Three Kings”

The Offering Dedication

Offering Response: VU #55 verse 3 only

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU# - “Good King Wenceslas”

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Highland Saga – “For Auld Lang Syne”