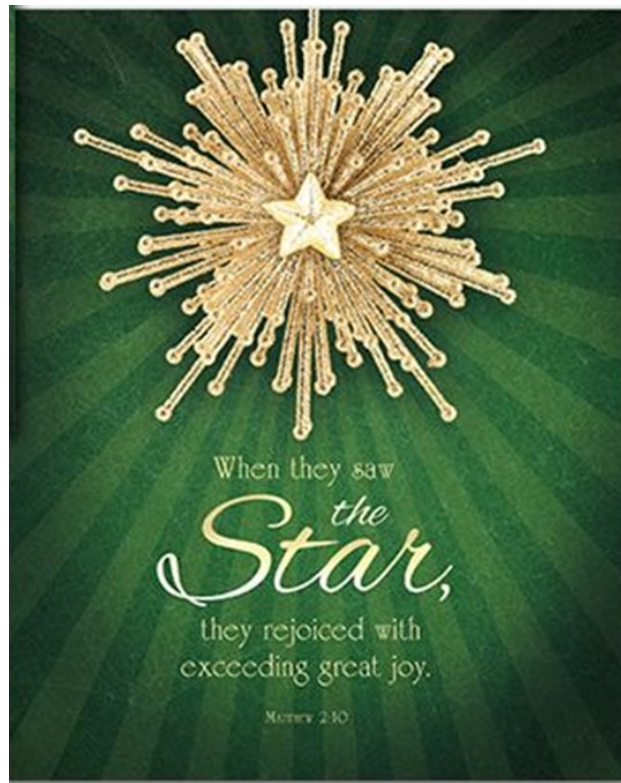




Shine God's Light

As disciples of Christ, we share and rejoice in the warmth of God's love and light by **teaching** the holy word, **servng** Christ's community, and **growing** together in faith.



January 7, 2024
Epiphany Sunday

The Service for the Lord's Day
Epiphany Sunday — The Sacrament of Communion

January 7, 2024

9:30 am

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Dietrich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

One: Sing praise to God, who gathers us here;

All: from the ends of the earth, we come.

One: With a word of promise, a spring of water,

All: a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,

One: God turns our mourning into dancing,

All: and our sorrow into joy. Let us worship God!

*Hymn *God Creates a Blessed Newness* (tune: Ode to Joy)
(please see insert for lyrics)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Holy God, you have given us everything; we have failed to respond with gratitude. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word; we answer with empty promises and lies. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light; we try to hide ourselves from your glory. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life; even this precious gift we have not received. Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us. In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be: beloved children, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The waters of baptism are God's promise, the sign and seal of your redemption:

You have been called by God, claimed in Christ, and set free through the Spirit.

Believe this good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace *(Please check first with those you approach)*

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message

Children's offering will be collected as they come forward for the message.

After the message, children and youth may depart for Sunday School or return to their pew.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup [Please take a star word as the basket is passed.]

*It is our common practice to hold onto the elements until all have received them
and then to partake of them together at the direction of the pastor.*

Prayer after Communion

God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us and called us beloved. Today we have been nourished by the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation – and we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas – inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you will speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that may help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with stories full of praise for the ways you have been present with us. Together we pray with joy in our hearts. Amen.

*Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are
(sing refrain only after stanzas 1 and 5)

No. 151

*Charge and Benediction

Response

Love Is the Song

Alfred H. Johnson

Love is the song the angels sing. Love is the theme that makes bells ring. Love tells the joy of simple things. Love gives the light that Christmas brings. Love brings the star that glows so bright. Love sends us forth to shine God's light.

Postlude

The First Noel

Diane Bish

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Cindy Hall, Office Manager
Jennifer Miller, Youth Coordinator

J. Jay Smith, Director of Music/Organist
Margaret Sheneman, Director of Handbells
Marion Barry, Sexton
Hubert King, audio/video engineer