

Second Sunday after Christmas & Epiphany Sunday
January 10, 2021

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS are located on the church website and in your weekly church-wide email

PRELUDE

The Star of the Eastern Sky (Baker)

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Lord of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we've come together in worship on this second Sunday of the New Year, with a mixture of hope, anticipation, fear, excitement, and expectation. We do not know what 2021 holds for us. We acknowledge that there are things we are afraid of or worried about: health, job security, school life, relationships, matters of community, national and global interest. We know there is much that we have to look forward to, like weddings, anniversaries, baptisms, holidays to enjoy, family and friends and strangers with whom we will share this new year. Lord, the coming year is full of both, uncertainty and hope. It isn't much different in that aspect, than the year Jesus was birthed. Today, we will hear the story of the Magi, those who searched for and served Christ, using their time, talent, and treasure before, during, and after they encountered Him. In preparation for the new year, we begin by confessing that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry. Standing before the manger, in the shadow of the cross, we seek your mercy and say "thank-you," again, for your grace and forgiveness. Receive all that we have to offer – beginning with the gift of our very selves, in addition to offerings of our time, talent, and finances. We want to travel in your ways. Amen.

HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old (Verse #1)

**Hymn, #123
(End of Bulletin)**

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING - Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, '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.'
³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all

Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ “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.””

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.’ ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

Mr. Devin Moyer

PRAYER of THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

- Leader: Please join me in prayer, joining in the parts listed as “all people.” Let us begin.
Wise and Ever-Present God, together we start a new year, full of unwritten stories and new opportunities. Together we pray that we can embrace all that the next twelve months have to offer us. We ask that you continue to be with us, and that your presence be felt in all things. We ask that you might grant to us, as individuals, and as a congregation, the wisdom, strength, and courage to meet each new day and each new challenge head on and full of eagerness. Give us courage to accept the clean slate you offer us.
- All people: Let this year be filled with things that are truly good. Let us look beyond the mundane or the struggles and see the blessings that wait for us at each corner. Bless us with the warmth of strong relationships, the strength to help those in our community that need help, and the courage and humility to accept it ourselves, in the moments when we need it too.*
- Leader: As we consider those around us who begin this year fighting sickness, disease, or battles beyond compare, help us to meet them with hearts full of compassion. Let us find ways to reach out to them, so that in each of us, they find a strength that eases their pain, and reminds them that there are people who care, and will stand alongside them.
- All people: Let all things be new this year. Remind us that you are a God of fresh starts. Let us become new creatures again, beginning today - in this very moment. Let the ministry of all of your children, and of your church be not confined within these walls or the small circles of our lives, but rather be directed throughout our community and our world.*
- Leader: Remind us that it takes only one person - one person willing to step out, speak up, and take a risk. Remind us it takes only one person to change the world. Help us to be the people who choose to do just that. Help us to be the people who are willing to let our light shine, no matter the cost.
- All people: Together, we celebrate you in praise and prayer. We do so as one voice, one people, and one church, as we continue to pray as Jesus taught us, saying: 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 forever. Amen.*

HYMN

We Three Kings (Sing Verses 1, 3 & 5)

All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 Opt. Solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 Opt. Solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 Opt. Solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; Christ and

1. gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2. bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 3. owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4. life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5. God and sac - ri - fice: al - le - lu - ia,

1. moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2. ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 3. voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 4. bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5. al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain (after 1 & 5 only)

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

BENEDICTION

Leader: On this day, let us go to be like the Magi, who after being in the presence of the Christ-Child, changed their lives, sought justice and mercy, and were forever transformed for the rest of their days.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE


The Messiah Has Come (Martin)

WILLIAM C. DIX, 1861



7.7.7.7.7.7.

DIX
Abridged from Chorale, *Treuer Heiland*
CONRAD KOCHER, 1838



Joyously



1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped To that low-ly man-ger-bed;
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5. In the heav-en-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-a-ted light;

As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Him whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down,

So, most gra-cious God, may we Ev-er-more be led to Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek the mer-cy-seat.
All our cost-liest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav-en-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Hal-le-lu-jah to our King. A-MEN.

