

Epiphany Sunday¹
January 2, 2022

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

*The Hope of Christmas*²
Carol of the Bells (for 12 Cellos)
Christmas Canon

PRELUDE

A Prelude for the New Year (Johnson)

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Congregation **We have seen the star in the sky and have come to worship the Christ Child.**

Pastor: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Congregation: **The star is resting over Bethlehem, and we come rejoicing, overwhelmed with joy.**

All people: *Let us bring the gift of our hearts and the gift of our lives to worship our God of light and everlasting love.*

HYMN

Arise, Your Light is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

¹ The Gift of Light: Service Prayers for January 6 or Epiphany Sunday was written by Debbie Gline Allen, Commissioned Minister of Christian Formation, who serves as Minister of Faith Formation for the Southern New England Conference, and as the Director of its Faith Formation Leadership Program. (ADAPTED by Pastor Laura)

² All music CCLI information is located on the back page of the bulletin.

INVOCATION & CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: O God of Light and Love, who shines in our hearts as brightly as the Bethlehem star, we come together to give you praise. You have come to us in the form of a newborn babe, and our hearts are filled with awe and with joy. We rejoice in your love for us, and we are grateful.

All people: Yet there are times when we are drawn away from your light. We may feel inadequate, unworthy, or less than perfect. We forget that we are your children, your beloved creations, and that you reach out for us even when we turn away from you. Forgive us, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The night is gone, and the day has come.
Christ, the Light of the World, born in the person of Jesus, reminds us that God's light and love are for all of us — no matter who we are and no matter what we have done.
We are loved and forgiven.

All People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Follow the Star-Follow the Light

Rev. Laura Bair-Baker

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

RITUAL – EPIPHANY STARS

OFFERING INVITATION

We Are the Reason

Dr. Troy Winemiller, Tenor

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor: Echoing the words of the song just sung by Troy: "We are the reason He suffered and died. To a world that was lost, He gave all He could give; to show us the reason to live...I finally found the reason for living. It's in giving every part of my heart to Him, in all that I do – every word that I say – I'll be giving my all just for Him."³

With gratitude for what Christ has done for us; with gratitude for show us how to live; with gratitude for giving us a reason to live, let us give our hearts, as well as offerings of our time, talent, and money – giving our all just for Him and dedicate it with a prayer.

All: As the Magi of old, guided by a star in the night sky, so we bring our gifts today. May these gifts scatter the shadows of those in need. May they be a source of light in places where your light and love are needed most. Amen.

HYMN

We Three Kings

Bulletin, Last Page

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

³ David Meece explained to *CCM Magazine presents 100 Greatest Songs in Christian Music* that the song "We are the Reason" wrote itself. "It was just one of those things that God plopped in my lap. I was a piano teacher, I never went to Bible college or seminary or anything. I was the last person in the world anybody would expect to write a song as profound as that one – not to sound pompous at all. I mean, it just kind of wrote itself."

Pastor: Let us give thanks to our God.
Congregation: **It is right to give our joyful thanks and praise.**

Pastor: We thank you, creating God for the great light of your love. When you called forth creation, you said, “Let there be light” and you saw that it was good. You divided the light from darkness and created the sun, moon, and stars to light the sky. It was good, as all your creation was good. When your people suffered in bondage and oppression, you led them out of slavery. You lit the way to freedom with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. You gave them your commandments to light their way, as they strove to become a community of justice and righteousness.

When your people turned from your light, you were still faithful, loving them always. You sent prophets to call them back to the world’s true light. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we sing your praises.

All people: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: You sent Jesus to us, the light of the world. He promised that those who followed him would never walk in darkness but would have the light of life. The light of his life shone on all people, revealing the truth of your love. He fed the hungry, cured the sick, ate with sinners, and proclaimed your truth.

Before he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Taking the bread, he gave thanks to you and broke it. He gave it to his friends, saying,

All people: “Take and eat. I am with you now and forever. Let this meal feed you. Remember me as you eat.”

Pastor: Then he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his followers, saying,

All people: “This is the cup of the new covenant, given for the forgiveness of sins. It is a gift for you and for all people. It is my love offered for you. Drink of this and remember me.”

Pastor: And so, as we remember Jesus, light of the world, teacher, healer, guide, and friend; we offer ourselves into Christ’s service, that we too might radiate God’s light, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All people: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ, light of the world, our hope for all creation. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may become the body of Christ, as we serve creation and reflect the light of your love. Make us one with Jesus, and one with each other, as we walk in the light, singing your praises. Through Jesus Christ, light of the world, and through the Holy Spirit, radiance divine, all praise is yours, eternal God, now and forever, world without end.

All people: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The night has gone and the Light has come!
May the light of the Bethlehem star, the wisdom of the Magi,
and the hope that the Christ Child brings be with you always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

The March of the Magi Kings (Thomas)

We Three Kings

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,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

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