

Racine/Sumner Center UMC

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols

Book of Common Worship

(Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), p. 192-193.

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements – Joys/Concerns

Opening

The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son of the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light
of all people.

Opening Prayer:

Everlasting God,

the radiance of faithful souls,

who brought the nations to your light

and kings to the brightness of your rising:

Fill the world with your glory,

and show yourself to all the nations;

through him who is the true light

and the bright morning star,

Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 247 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Author: Philipp Nicolai (1599)

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1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright

thou beamest forth in truth and light,

O Sovereign meek and lowly!

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,

my Lord and Master, thou hast won
my heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy,
fair and glorious, all-victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.

2. Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine!
O deep within my heart now shine,
and make thee there an altar!
Fill me with joy and strength to be
thy member, ever joined to thee
in love that cannot falter;
toward thee longing
doth possess me; turn and bless me;
here in sadness
eye and heart long for thy gladness!

3 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, O glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness,
we are yearning
for the day of your returning.

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)



The Ingathering of the Dispersed

*60 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,[a]
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.

Response:

Hymn 157 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)

Publication Date: 1989

Composer: John Hatton (1793)

**1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

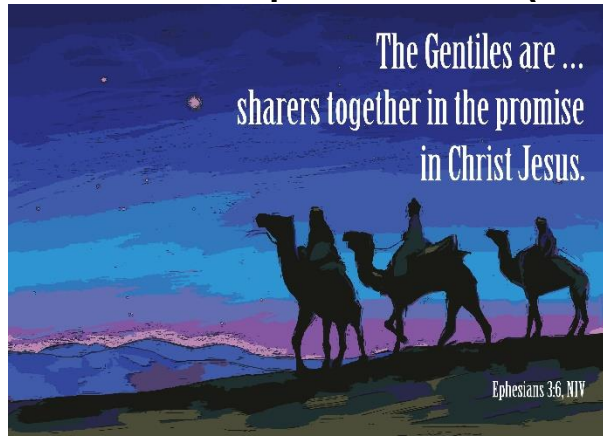
**2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.**

**3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**

**5. Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1–12 (NRSV)



Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for[a] Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery[b] was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make everyone see[c] what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[d] God who created all things; 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.[e]

Response:

Hymn #347 "Spirit Song"

Author John Wimber (1979)

Publication Date 1989

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Composer: John Wimber (1979)

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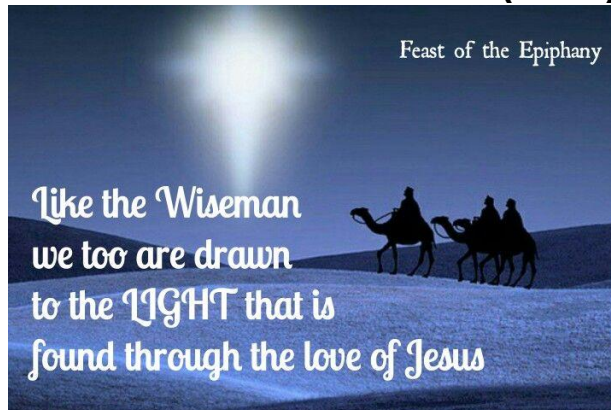
**1. Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
With his Spirit and his love
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh, let him have the things that hold you
And his Spirit, like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**2. Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness
Give him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

Third Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)



The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[b] and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[c] was to be born. 5 They 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[d] my people Israel.'"*

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then 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." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped,[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Response:

Hymn 254

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Author: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

Publication Date: 1989

**1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

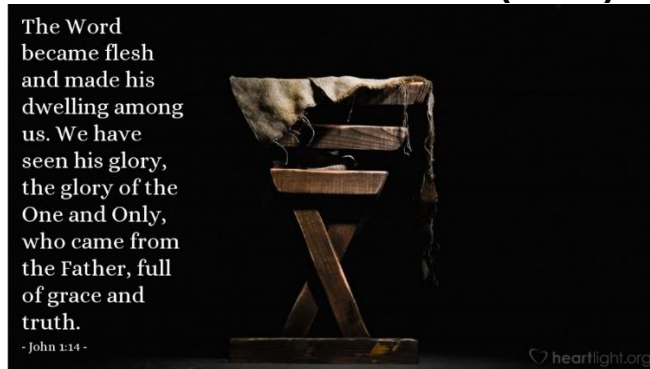
**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. [Refrain]**

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
[Refrain]**

Fourth Lesson: John 1:1–14 (NRSV)



The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth.

Response:

Hymn 252 "When Jesus Came to Jordan"

Author: Fred Pratt Green (1973)

Composer (attributed to): William Walker (1835)

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1988)

Publication Date: 1989

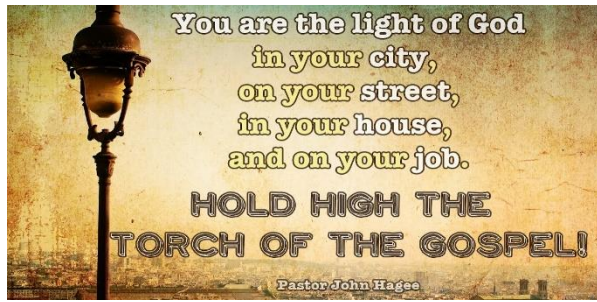
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**1 When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.**

**2 He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.**

**3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.**

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 5:14–16 (NRSV)



14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Response:

Hymn 541 "See How Great a Flame Aspires"

Author: Charles Wesley (1749)

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1963, alt.)

Copyright: Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

**1 See how great a flame aspires,
kindled by a spark of grace.
Jesus' love the nations fires,
sets the kingdoms on a blaze.
To bring fire on earth he came,
kindled in some hearts it is;
O that all might catch the flame,
all partake the glorious bliss!**

**2 When he first the work begun,
small and feeble was his day;
now the Word doth swiftly run,
now it wins its widening way;
more and more it spreads and grows,
ever mighty to prevail;
sin's strongholds it now o'erthrows,
shakes the trembling gates of hell.**

Litany for Epiphany

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

With joy let us pray to our Savior,
the Son of God who became one of us, saying:

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place
where the Word of life is not yet received.

**3 Saints of God, your Savior praise,
who the door hath opened wide;
he hath given the word of grace,
Jesus' word is glorified;
Jesus mighty to redeem,
who alone the work hath wrought;
worthy is the work of him,
him who spake a world from naught.**

**4 Saw ye not the cloud arise,
little as a human hand?
Now it spreads along the skies,
hangs o'er all the thirsty land.
Lo! the promise of a shower
drops already from above;
but the Lord will shortly pour
all the spirit of his love.**

Draw the whole creation to yourself
that your salvation may be known through
all the earth.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Savior and Lord,
extend your church to every place.
Make it a place of welcome for people of every
race and tongue.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Ruler of rulers,
direct the work and thoughts of the leaders
of nations that they may seek justice,
and further peace and freedom for all.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Master of all,
support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted,
strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen.
Watch over the lonely and those in danger.
Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith
of the persecuted.

The grace of God be with us all. Amen.

Lord's Prayer...

Departing Hymn 666 "Shalom to You"

Author: Elise S. Eslinger (1980)

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1989)

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**Shalom to you now,
Shalom, my friends,
May God's full mercies
Bless you, my friends,
In all your living
And through your loving
Christ be your shalom
Christ be your shalom.**

Charge and Benediction

— written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;
and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus,
fill your hearts, souls and minds;
may the power of God which upheld them,
strengthen you for each day;
and may the love of God which directed their every action
be your guiding light and your shining star,
both now and forevermore. Amen