

January 7, 2023

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

People: The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

Leader: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

People: Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

Leader: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

People: We offer ourselves and what we have.

Leader: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad!

*Hymn #157: "Brightest and Best"

*Passing the Peace

Scripture reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Liisa Granfors-Hunt

Time With Young Disciples

*Unison Prayer

Guiding God, bless us on the road we have chosen to seek your star. Light-shedding God, light up our minds with your truth that lets us ignore the bad-news-Herods and keep going toward that certain glow in the sky of our lives. Beckoning God, help us to bring gifts worthy of the Christ. Then, we too shall be known by you as wise women and men. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Sermon: "Never Stop Seeking"

Hymn #159: "As With Gladness Those of Old"

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving and receptive God who acted in the Bethlehem birth and who sustains the whole human family. We come to you seeking to be wise men and women. May our gifts be a sign, as were the gifts of those travelers of old, that wisdom is marked by an offering of self and substance to the Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene on that same day, sat at a table with his two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyous feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. ... Gifted by the presence of

your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn #160: "Jesus, the Light of the World"**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**