

## January 5, 2025

**Prelude and Chimes**      How Brightly Shines the Morning Star by Stanley E. Saxton

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

**Leader:**      Jesus said: I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

**People:**      **We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky; and like the Magi, we have come to worship.**

**ALL:**          **Glory be to God, and to Jesus Christ, the Word of Light, in whom God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**\*Hymn #9:** (Green Book) "The First Nowell"

#### \*Passing the Peace

**Scripture:**                                  Matthew 2:1-11                                  Liisa Granfors-Hunt

**Anthem:** Eternal Rose, by d. Lantz III & G. Grier

### Time With Young Disciples

#### \*Unison Prayer

**Guiding God, bless us on the road we have chosen to seek your child. Light-shedding God, light up our minds with your truth that lets us ignore the bad-news-Herods and keep us going on 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 as wise women and men. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Sermon:** "Follow the Light"

**\*Hymn #160:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)"

**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.

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.

### **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 at <https://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/>)*

### **Offertory**

What is This Lovely Fragrance? Arranged by April Stace

### **\*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 for 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**

This table is open to all who seek Jesus and who seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

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!**

### **Prayers of Institution and Consecration**

### **Sharing 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 #159: "As With Gladness Those of Old"**

#### **\*Commissioning and Blessing**

#### **\*Choral Response**

#### **\*Postlude**

Glory to God in the Highest by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi,  
Arr. by Willard Irving Nevins

