

Sow Good News

"Faith comes by listening." (Romans 10:17)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 7, 2024 (*Epiphany Observed*)



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor
Wendy Lavey, Liturgist

Unconditional love asks nothing, not even that it be returned.

~ Ted Chiang, "Stories of Your Life and Others"

~ GATHERING ~

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Ephesians 3:7-8)*

Tell the good news throughout the earth:
the saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.

PRELUDE

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor. **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all. **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Let us kneel down before him to give honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

In the light of Christ, come, let us worship God.

HYMN

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

GTG #151

by John Henry Hopkins Jr.

You are invited to come forward and place your "birthday offering box" beside the manager.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Amen. *[Silent Confession]*

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

GTG #576

by Swee Hong Lim

SINGAPURA

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

NRSV

The mystery of the ages, revealed to all. **Thanks be to God.**

WORD

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

GTG #143

by James Montgomery

REGENT SQUARE

EPIPHANY LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-12

NRSV

SERMON

FRIGHTENED AND OVERWHELMED

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Alleluia. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REPRISE

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Refrain

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

COMMUNION

~ *SENDING* ~

*HYMN

LOVE HAS COME
by Ken Bible

GTG #110
BRING A TORCH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Next Week: Baptism of the Lord & Installation of Elders and Deacons

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA)

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