



Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

With each new day

There is a new beginning.

With each new year

We can make a fresh start.

With a fresh start and a new beginning

There is fresh hope.

With fresh hope in our hearts

We come to worship God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of light and love, we gather in wonder to praise you for the bright sun that makes the snow sparkle and for the twinkling stars which light up the night sky. We praise you for the love we share in smiles that sparkle and eyes that twinkle. Most of all we praise you for Jesus, the Light of the world. His love shines into our lives to warm our hearts and guide our footsteps. Shine on us today, O God, so we remember to follow Jesus every day of this new year. Amen.

***HYMN #147 The First Nowell**

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a col winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5. Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

God of angels and the wise Magi, you know we don't always act like angels. We say the wrong thing and someone gets hurt. We're not always wise either. We do something foolish and we don't know how to set things right. Jesus, we're sorry. Help us make a fresh start in this new year. Guide us by the love that shines from your life. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

****GLORIA PATRI***

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 72

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

****HYMN #151*** We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 night, 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 gladly raising, worshiping God Most 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! Earth and heav'n replies. *Refrain*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON Follow That Star

RECEIVING EPIPHANY STARS

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

****DOXOLOGY***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION***

God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, you have shown us how to give with love. Accept the gifts we bring; use them for the work of Jesus' reign. Keep us in remembrance of the magi and grant us their generosity and courage. In the name of Jesus, your greatest gift. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (*please hold the bread and then the cup so that we all commune together showing our unity in Christ*)

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #150** As with Gladness Men of Old

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's allow,
all our costliest treasure bring, Christ to thee, our heavenly king.
4. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed soul at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JANUARY 7, 2024

This week's carillon is in memory of Brent W. Daniels. Brent was the infant son of Steve and Joanne Daniels and grandson of Doris Daniels.

YOUTH GROUP: The group will be meeting tonight at 6:30 pm.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE: Committee Chairs need to submit their annual reports to the church office by January 15.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: January 28 following worship. At that time the annual reports and church budget for 2024 will be received. New Elders and Deacons will be elected and the Pastor's terms of call will be voted on. There will be a potluck lunch following the meeting. Please plan to attend.

NEW BIBLE STUDY – NEW MEETING TIME: The next weekly Bible study will begin on Monday January 22 at 9:30 am. This will be an in-person study but will also be available on Zoom. Pastor Su will lead the discussion on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Friends are also welcome. Coffee will be provided.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Pasta sauce, pasta, Mac & Cheese and hearty soup. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

Calendar:

January 7	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
	6:30 pm	Youth Group
January 8	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 71 meeting
January 9	9:00 am	Christian Education meeting
	10:00 am	Worship and Music meeting
January 10	12:00 pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship

Elder of the month: Amy Raab **Deacon of the month:** Louise Stemplewicz
Communion Servers: Donna Jencks, Maggie Rash and Louise Stemplewicz
Fellowship Host: Beth Conti

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,
Mary Lou Humlhanz, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

