

Sunday January 5, 2025  
Epiphany  
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome  
Family Life and Work  
Family Celebrations  
Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Introit: Where Two or Three Are Gathered

MV 14

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there.

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there.

Call to Worship:

One: His salvation is near to those who fear him

**All: His glory shall dwell in our land**

One: I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for He is speaking peace to His faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**All: His glory shall dwell in our land**

Opening Hymn: Spirit Open My Heart

MV 79

**Chorus:**

**Spirit open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living  
As you love may I love  
In receiving and in giving Spirit,  
open my heart**

**1 God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.**

**2 Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.**

**3 May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

Prayer of Approach:

**Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. And now in his words, we say together,**

**The Lord's Prayer (unison)**

**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 trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1 – 6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

Children's Time:

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Gradual Hymn: We Three Kings

**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:**

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I.  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God on high.**

**REFRAIN:**

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

**4. Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume  
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**REFRAIN:**

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Sounds through the earth and skies.**

**REFRAIN:  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

We Listen

Meditation: The Rev. Kathleen Greidanus

We Respond

Musical Offering: The Light Still Shines

Offertory: Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart

VU 513 vs 1

**Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart  
and a discerning mind;  
give, as I play the Christian's part,  
the strength to finish what I start  
and act on what I find.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

**Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Closing Hymn: The First Nowell

VU 91

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

**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. R**

**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. R**

**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. R**

**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. R**

**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. R**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Go Gently, Go Lightly

**Go gently, go lightly,  
go safe in the Spirit,  
live simply, don't carry  
much more than you need:  
go trusting God's goodness,  
go spreading God's kindness,  
stay centred on Jesus  
and where he will lead.  
Go singing, go bringing  
the gifts of the Spirit,  
go hopefully searching  
for things that are true:  
in living, in loving,  
whatever befalls you,  
God keep you, God bless you  
in all that you do.**