

CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ONLINE WORSHIP

JANUARY 3, 2021

EPIPHANY

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION (*silently pray*)

O God our Savior, who by the bright shining of a star led the wise men to the city of David: guide us by the light of your Spirit, that we too may come into the presence of Jesus and offer our gifts and our worship to him, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME AND BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey to find the One who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, and may the good news of the birth of light and love transform our lives. Amen.

OPENING HYMN # 254 (v. 1-2 & 5)

“We Three Kings”

United Methodist Hymnal

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 light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(join in prayer)*

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money, time, and ourselves. Let them shine for all to see, spreading your love throughout the whole world. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN # 245 (v.1-2)

“The First Noel”

United Methodist Hymnal

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

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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)*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(join in prayer)*

Loving God, open our hearts and minds to the light of your Word. May the words we hear transform us and guide us as we follow the star of love and light. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON
Version

Matthew 2:1-12

New Revised Standard

The Journey of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE

“Home By Another Road”

Pastor Roy

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured, let us be one in the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please share the bread and cup with those present saying the words,
“The Body of Christ broken for you; the Blood of Christ shed for you”)

CLOSING HYMN # 219

“What Child Is This”

United Methodist Hymnal

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION