

JANUARY 5, 2025

*Holy Communion for the Feast of Epiphany*

*(\* The congregation will please stand as able  
(**BOLD-FACED TYPE**) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

*Silent Prayer and Time for Centering*

Prelude

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Mystery, your light has led us to you.

**All through our days your Word has shone;  
your star has lit the way.**

You have accompanied us, guided us, and guarded us.

**We have come through miles and years to this place,  
this moment.**

We have come to praise you, to honor you, to worship you.

**We thank you for your grace.**

**We wonder at your presence.**

And we are still learning to seek your presence  
and to follow your light.

**We are still asking, "Where is the child?"**

**Help us to search,  
and help us to find.**

God, we praise you

for the One who shepherds your people.

**Alleluia!**

**We worship you with thanksgiving and praise.**

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 220

## 220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your  
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions  
4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch-ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,  
ye have seen his na - tal star:  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12; Mal. 3:1)  
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE  
87.87.87

*Words and music are in the public domain; permission to reproduce for worship bulletins is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we wish to see ourselves clearly  
with the eyes of love.**

**We recall those times  
we have followed the light of your grace  
and moved closer to you, and we give thanks.**

**We recall those times  
when we have followed false stars of ego,  
fear, or attachments,  
and have wandered away from you;  
and we ask your forgiveness.**

**In Christ we trust your grace.**

**Forgive us, heal us,  
and renew your Spirit in us,  
that we may faithfully follow the light of your love.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, know that all your sins are forgiven entirely;  
and we are set free  
to live by the Spirit each moment  
in the light and grace of God. Alleluia.

## Passing the Peace of Christ

## THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson:

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

(Pg. 602) \*\*

CHOIR CAROL

Born in A Stable

[Philip Stopford](#)

Born in a stable in Bethlehem,  
gently in manger laid,  
Jesus the King of the human race,  
grant us your holy peace.

Mary and Joseph watch over him there,  
Oxen and ass by their side;  
Worship together the Holy babe,  
Savior of all mankind.

Far from the East there came wise men three  
bearing their gifts for a King,  
kneeling to Him who would save the world,  
Jesus the Lord of all.

Though for our Savior no room was found,  
Son of the highest of all,  
still in our hearts there is room for You,  
come with your holy peace

*Words: Kenneth Steven © 2017; Music: Philip Stopford © 2017 Hal Leonard Music PO Box 13819. Milwaukee WI; reprinted and recorded under [OneLicense.net License #A-711296](#) All rights reserved*

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

# \*HYMN OF PREPARATION

## WE THREE KINGS

KINGS OF ORIENT



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now, be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain; King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Pray'r and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.



star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to the per - fect light.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.

Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

*Words and music are in the public domain; permission to reproduce for worship bulletins is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202*

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us,

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

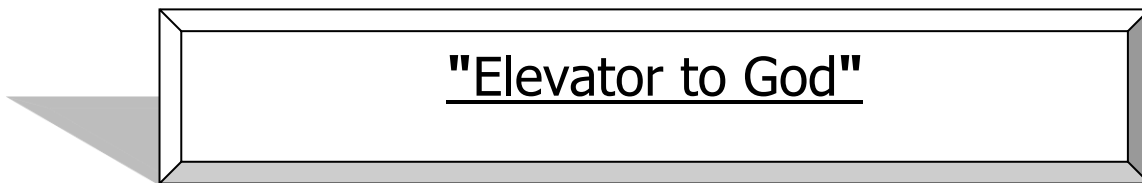
Refrain

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a refrain. The first staff has the lyrics "Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o!". The second staff has the lyrics "Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!". Both staves feature a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a simple, rhythmic line with a long note on "De-o!". A bracket above the first staff is labeled "Refrain".

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol.

*Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) # A-711296.*

SERMON



**THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

# Star-Child

223

1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God, love Child,  
2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,  
3 Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years, sad child,  
4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,  
5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -

*Refrain*

Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:  
used child no one wants to know:  
lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar -  
faith child know - ing joy in store:  
earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931 - )  
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926 - )  
Words and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

STAR-CHILD  
4.5.4.5.Ref.

*Words: Sheila E. Murray © 1994 Hope Publishing Co. 380 Main Place Carol Stream, IL; Music by Carlton Young © 1994 Hope Publishing Co. 380 Main Place, Carol Stream IL, all Rights reserved; Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) # A-711296.*



# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

## **PRAYER SONG** *(Verse 1)*

### INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

W ZLOBIE LEZY



1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a  
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vi - gil till the



1. cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing  
2. morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry,



1. Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing,  
2. Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row,



1. No - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
2. Prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row: Christ the babe was born for you.

Text: 87 87 88 77; Polish carol; tr. by Edith M. Reed, 1885–1933. Music: Polish carol.

Words: Trad. Polish Carol 1925, Public Domain; Music © 1965 Abingdon Press; Permission to reprint and record granted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) # A-711296.

## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## **PRAYER SONG** *(Verse 2, from above)*

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.*

# OFFERTORY MUSIC

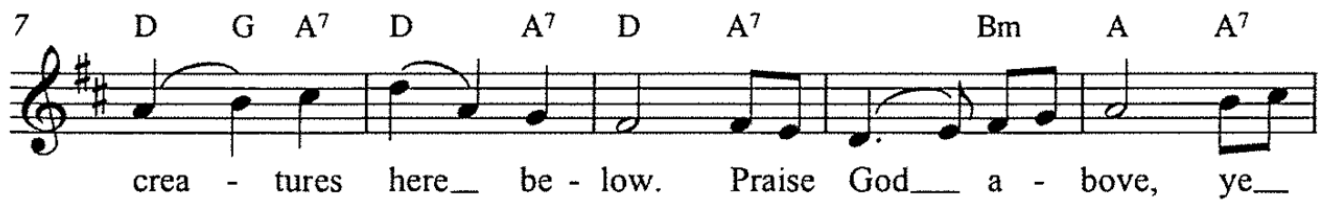
## DOXOLOGY

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>



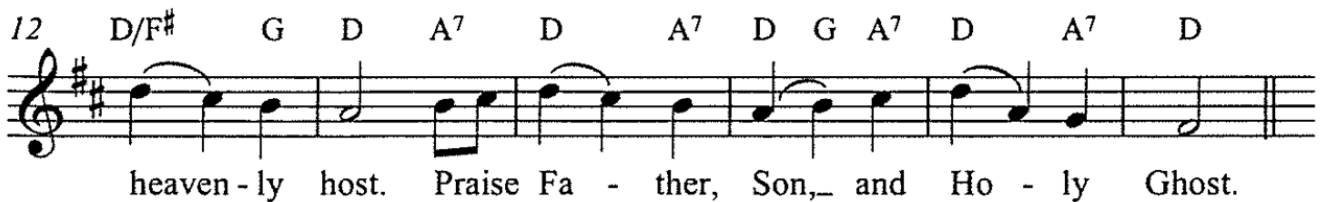
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>



creatures here below. Praise God above, ye

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D



heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#</sup>m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

**God of love, we offer you our gold:**

**all that we value,  
all we possess or cling to:  
may it be yours,  
and for your purposes only.**

**We offer you our frankincense:**

**our prayers now and in every moment of our lives,  
that we may live in grateful trust,  
in reverent joy,  
and in faithful love.**

**We offer you our myrrh:**

**knowing we are mortal,  
we give you these short lives  
to spend as you would have us spend them.**

**We offer to you our dying,**

**that our living may be holy and beautiful.**

**These things we offer in the light of your grace  
and the delight of your loving Christ. Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *For Epiphany*

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**

..... *and all the company of heaven*

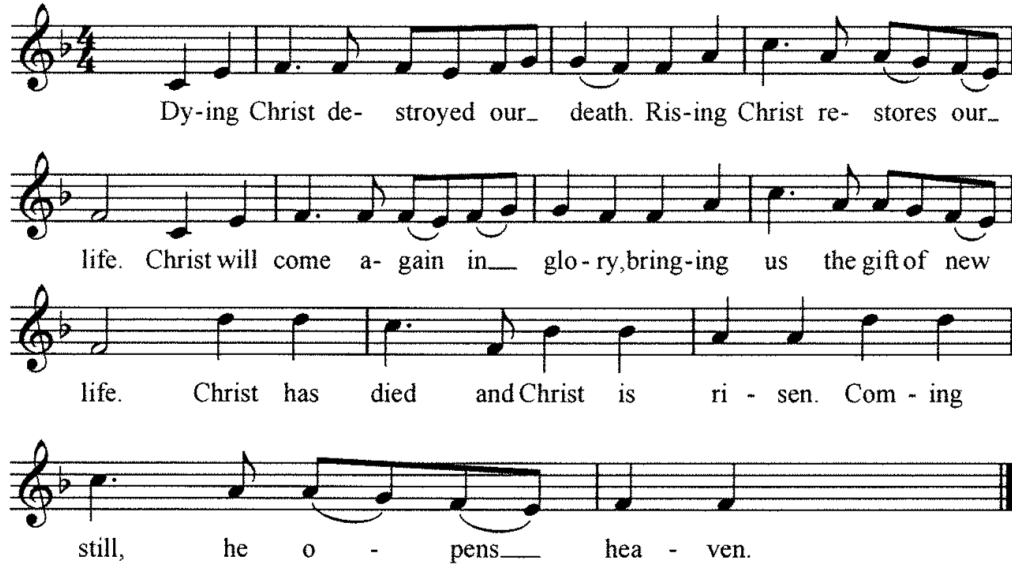
*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might a-dored,  
heaven and earth shine this night with the glo - ry of your light.  
Loud ho-san-nas now we sing! In the high-est may they ring! Blest is your An-  
oint-ed One, Christ, E - man - nu - el, your Son. Sing Ho-san - na  
at his birth! Glo - ry on high, and peace on earth!

..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....*

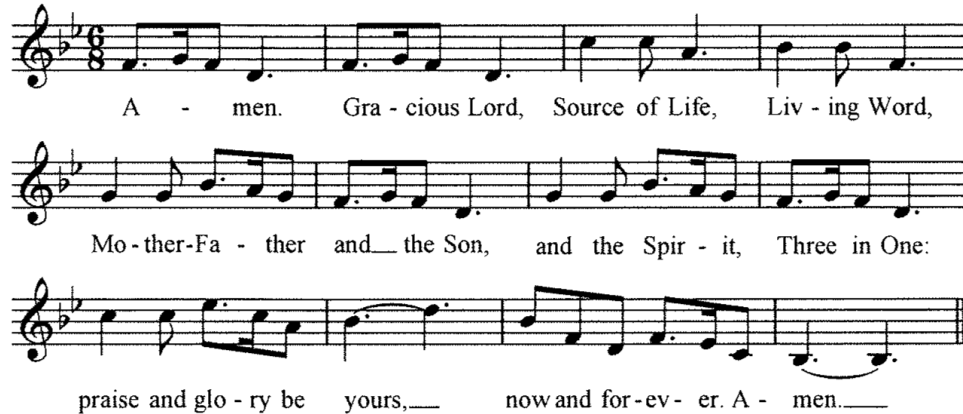
*Memorial Acclamation*



Dy-ing Christ de- stroyed our\_ death. Ris-ing Christ re- stores our\_ life. Christ will come a- gain in\_ glo- ry,bring-ing us the gift of new life. Christ has died and Christ is ri - sen. Com - ing still, he o - pens\_ hea - ven.

..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*

*Great Amen*



A - men. Gra - cious Lord, Source of Life, Liv - ing Word, Mo - ther - Fa - ther and\_ the Son, and the Spir - it, Three in One: praise and glo - ry be yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Copyright 1992 Steve Garnaas-Holmes. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203. Website [www.umcworship.org](http://www.umcworship.org). This music may be reproduced and used in congregational worship with the inclusion of the complete copyright citation. It may not be used for profit, sold, republished, or placed on a website.

*Words © 1989 from "A Service of Word and Table; Music © 1992 arranged by Stephen Garnass Holmes. permission to reproduce is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202*

**The Lord's Prayer**

(UMH p. 895)

Prayer Following Communion:

**THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE**

# \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

## 196 In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM  
Irregular

*Words and Music are in the Public Domain; permission to reproduce is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202*

BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

## Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

*Jane Combs*

Video and Sound Engineer

*John Wilderman*

Altar Flowers:

Cover Image: Tissot, James, 1836-1902. *Journey of the Magi*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56277> [retrieved January 2, 2025]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magi\\_tissot.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magi_tissot.jpg).

Background on the Bulletin Cover can be found [HERE](#)

Hymns and songs in the United Methodist Hymnal and Supplements that are not in the public domain and are published by UM Publishing house or Abingdon Press; are used according to copyright permissions as granted by the hymnal publisher, United Methodist Publishing House, PO BOX 801 Nashville TN 37202

Use of congregational hymns and songs that are not public domain are reported weekly  
Under our license with onelicense.net # [A-711296](#) and/or CCLI License #21279385 / Streaming #21279392

The liturgical resources are used with permission and adapted from: the Discipleship Ministries ([umdiscipleship.org](http://umdiscipleship.org)) of the United Methodist Church, 1908 Grand Ave, Nashville TN 37212

\*\*\*Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at [unfoldinglight.com](http://unfoldinglight.com) & [Discipleship Ministries](#) online resources.

\*\* *The scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used with permission. All Rights Reserved*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Looking Ahead**

Readings for January 12, 2024

The Baptism of the Lord

[Isaiah 43:1-7 / Psalm 29](#)

[Acts 8:14-17/ Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

*For more about our ministries please visit our website*

<http://www.firstumcrochester.org/>

Follow or "LIKE" us on [Facebook](#)