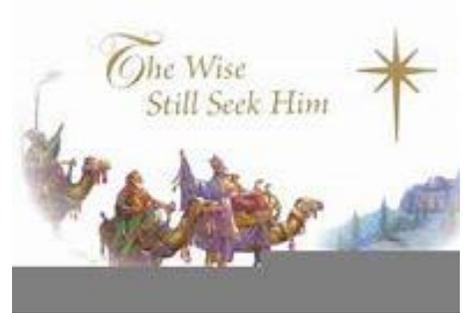


# Morning Worship

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021 (Online)



Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

### Call to Worship

Leader: God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

**All: Arise! Shine!**

Leader: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

**All: Arise! Shine!**

Leader: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

**All: Arise! Shine!**

Leader: Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.

**All: Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

### Prayer of Invocation

**Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation.**

**Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls.**

**Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe.**

**Glory of God, fill each heart with love and compassion.**

**Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.**

Call to Confession

We are the people of God,  
 but Scripture reminds us that we still sin.  
 We need to confess our failures,  
 knowing that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us with the Father,  
 who freely forgives us, through his infinite goodness and mercy.  
 So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

The Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,  
 We confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both  
 our actions and our inactions.  
 We recognize that in Jesus our light has come,  
 Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light.  
 Gracious God, forgive our sins, and remove from us the veil of  
 darkness which shrouds our lives.  
 Illumine us by your Word So we may shine with the radiance  
 of Christ's glory. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

Assurance of Pardon

**Leader:** Christ died for our sins. He made a full atonement for us. We are forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life. Feel that forgiveness in your heart. We are His children.

**All: Amen**

*A Personal Creed*

**I believe in God who created this beautiful world...**

**filled it with the amazing animals of the land, sea, and sky, the most gorgeous plants, trees,**

**and flowers, breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, and humankind in is His likeness.**

**I am God's child and He will always love me.**

**He guides me back to Him when I sin and wonder away from His love and care.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ who walked this earth and showed me, by example, how to treat people with love, respect, dignity, and compassion.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit...**

**who walks with me daily, gives me the strength and courage to walk in my faith journey, and guides me to share my faith with everyone I meet.**

**By giving the ultimate gift of His Son, God offered me everlasting life.**

**Jesus was humiliated, tortured, betrayed, and was killed for my sins.**

**He arose from the dead and went to Heaven to be with His Father.**

**At the appropriate time He will come back again.**

**I am called by my Creator to...**

**be His disciple in this world, care for His church and its members,  
serve my fellow man wherever, however, and whenever I am needed,  
resist the evil that is present in the world, and eat at His table of grace.**

**I believe in His promise, that if I believe in Him and am baptized in His name...**

**that my sins will be forgiven by sincerely saying that I am sorry for what I have done and have not done,**

**that He walks with me and gives me courage and strength in the struggles I encounter in my life,**

**He will be there with me in the joys and successes in my lives, and**

**by His grace, I will live together with Him and all the saints in eternity.**

**I believe that I should read and study the scriptures throughout my life as a guide in my daily living.**

**I believe in the trinity...**

**The one God who created me.**

**Jesus Christ, His son, sent to teach me how to care for God's people and His creation.**

**The Holy Spirit, who is the guide in my daily life.**

**I believe that God walks with me each day of my life. I am never alone.**

**Amen**

*Old Testament Reading*      *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

New Testament ReadingEphesians 3:1-12

**3** This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the

Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[c]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Morning Message

Jan Garinger

Morning Prayer

Symbolic Offering

Like the Wise Men long ago, we bring gifts from the heart to honor the newborn Christ Child. Like the Wise Men long ago, may we be overwhelmed with joy at the marvelous things God is doing in this world. Let us bring our gifts to help Christ's world and His people.

Offertory Music

Prayer of Dedication

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives  
we offer these gifts to you.**

**Through your blessing and our willingness to share,  
may these offerings become a source for hope and love  
in this church family, and in the community beyond us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Benediction

**Leader:** We have celebrated together that Jesus Christ came to earth.

**All:** He came not only for Christians, but to be known by every person.

**Leader:** Known in every country and every culture on earth.

**All:** For He is the Savior of all.

**Leader:** May we come to know Him better.

**All:** Then make Him known to others, especially by the way we live.

**Leader:** Any may almighty God bless you.

Go in the peace of Christ and walk in His light.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Amen

**\*Three-fold Amen**

**#812 (NCH)**

**\*Postlude**

