

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 4, 2026



Epiphany falls on January 6 and is observed on the closest Sunday! The Greek word epiphany simply means “to reveal” or “to make manifest.” It was the name given by early Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the revelation of God’s love to the world (John 3:16). Focus on seeking Christ’s light, responding to God’s glory, and sharing the good news, inviting people to follow the guiding star, bring their gifts (of self, service, or resources), and become bearers of God’s light to the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 60

LEADER: Arise! Shine! For your light has come.

PEOPLE: **The glory of the Lord rests on all of us!**

LEADER: So today we stand up as we praise the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Look! Our hearts rejoice as we stand before God.**

LEADER: Together, we come to praise the Creator of light!

PEOPLE: **Let our lives show God’s light to the world!**

*HYMN

We Three Kings

#254

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]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;

prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

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

Author: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* #881
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Universal

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (NRSVUE)

7 “For thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,

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for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am

HYMN *Sing We Now of Christmas*
#237 refrain only
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sine we now Noel!
Words: Traditional French carol
Composer: Martin Shaw (1928)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR EPIPHANY

written by Margaret D. McGee

Bathed in starlight, we pray together to the One who created all things, saying, show us your child, O God, For we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

Make your wisdom in its rich variety known through all faithful people, and give your holy church grace to bear the gifts of truth and love to all your children on earth.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in faith.

Give your justice to the nations and leaders, and give your mercy to all whose decisions affect the peace and well-being of the world. Where we have power ourselves, open our ears to the cries of the weak, the poor, and open our hearts to answer their call.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in hope.

Bless this community, that in your light we may each become a servant, one to the other. Bring us together in story, song, joy, and sorrow; and let every daughter and son who comes among us find kinship.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in love.

Have mercy on those among us who journey in sickness, fear, or any kind of trouble. Meet them on your road with rest, peace, and good cheer.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together by your side.

We remember those who have died, and now return to their Creator. All those who mourn and cry in sorrow.

[silence]

Dear God, with longing and thanksgiving, knowing that you hold this world and all its children dear in your heart, we pray for the grace to receive your gifts, to lift up our eyes and look around, and to offer back those same gifts to you and your world, with love.

Show us your child, O God, for we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

To the One who is the companion along the way, and our journey's end, we pray in boldness and confidence through faith: **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 forever. Amen**

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GIVING

*RESPONSE

What Child Is This #219 vs. 3 UMH

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Author: William C. Dix (1865)

Music: 16th Cent. English Melody Greensleeves

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NRSVUE)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ[b] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

1 Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain:
This year, this year
let the day arrive

Star-Child #2095 FWS

when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

2 Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know, [Refrain]

3 Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears, [Refrain]

4 Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store, [Refrain]

5 Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine, [Refrain].

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Carlton R. Young

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MESSAGE

Spiritual Blessings in Christ
Rev. David W. Brown

CONFESION

Written by Reformed Worship

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 your Son our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in shadow and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives. Illuminated by your Word, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory.

PARDON

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Hear the good news:

In the name of the triune God
I declare that,
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Thanks be to God:

Our sins are forgiven.

Amen!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Communion will be shared in receiving a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. Immediately eat it with thanksgiving. Sealed elements are available near the grand piano if this allows you to participate. You need not be a member of the United Methodist Church or Armstrong Chapel. Simply desire to receive the grace of Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION PRAYER

from the Abingdon Worship Annual

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all gathered, that we might be your light in the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that we might be infused with the gift of your nourishing guidance.

Transform us with your nourishing grace, even as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup.

Transfigure us to be your presence in the world, even as we are redeemed and reclaimed by your great love.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. Amen.

*HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain

#251

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Adapter: John W. Work Jr. (1907)

Music: Afro-American spiritual

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BENEDICTION

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Go now as a light to the nations.
Honor the Lord;
preach what you know of the risen Christ,
and fulfil all righteousness.

And may God strengthen you
and bless you with peace;
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice;
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you
and affirm you as God's beloved ones.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Stand in body or in spirit

Liturgist at 8:20 – Carol Ney

Liturgist at 9:40 – Beth Eberle



Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium
following the 9:40 service!

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE



ONLINE GIVING

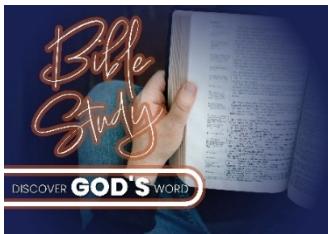


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Our gift to you for 2026 is a Bible reading plan with creative prompts. Our Creator excels at design and artistic expression. As God's image-bearers, we can use our creative gifts to learn about and worship him.

With this yearlong Scripture-reading guide, you can draw, doodle, color, and journal as you reflect on God's Word. After reading the weekly Bible passages—which are grouped according to monthly themes—grab some markers, colored pencils, or pens to respond. Close each devotional time with prayer, thanking the Master Artist for making, sustaining, and blessing you!

Pick up a copy of the reading plan at the desk in the Atrium or print yours at home: <https://bit.ly/4pDMbqs>



WOMEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited

- **Mondays at 9:30am** in the Armstrong Room. New study begins 1/12. *The Good Shepherd: Caring for People Even When It's Difficult* by Heather Thompson Day. In John 10, Jesus famously called himself the Good Shepherd, inviting us into a life of flourishing when we follow him. But what makes a shepherd good, and how can we recognize true spiritual leaders in our midst? Explore the way Jesus modeled the qualities of a good shepherd, showing us what it means to shepherd others in grace and truth. Led by Serena Tsuang.
- **Mondays at 6:00pm** in the Armstrong Room. New 8-week study begins January 19. *The Chosen Season 5: The Stronghold of the Chosen* by Amanda Jenkins, Dallas Jenkins, Dr. Douglas S. Huffman. This study follows each episode in Season 5 and teaches readers to run to Jesus when life is hard or confusing and to trust Him as their place of refuge. If you haven't seen *The Chosen*, it is highly recommended to view Seasons 1-4 in the *The Chosen* app, or at www.thechosen.tv, or through Amazon Prime prior to participating in this class. This foundational knowledge will enhance your discussions and understanding of the themes presented. We watch each episode and complete each lesson in advance, so we are prepared for every class. For more details and to register for class, please reach out to Victoria Rhodus.
- **Tuesdays at 9:45am** at the home of Julie Holland. Short study (TBA) beginning in January before reading the new Laurie Short book, *Tracking God in your Life*, in late February.
- **Thursdays at 6:45am** in the Armstrong Room. Reading William Barclay's study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Led by Jan Bell.

MEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/men

- **Friday Morning Bible Study:** Verse-by-verse study of scripture led by Pastor David Brown. Fridays at 7:00am in the Armstrong Room and via Zoom.

- **Burgers, Brews & the Bible:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm at 50 West Burger Bar. Studying Romans. Led by Gordon Miller. Arrive at 6:30 if you plan to eat.
- **715BC:** Breakfast Wednesdays at 7:15am at the National Exemplar in Mariemont. Studying the Galatians. Led by Garen Wisner.
- **Armstrong Men "Nooners":** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon for lunch at Ferrari's in Madeira. Discussion on the life application questions from the *Upper Room* devotional. Led by Bryan Holland.



For complete details and registration, visit armstrongchapel.org/womenunited/

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Stay connected with



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