

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 5, 2025



Twelve Days of Christmas

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).

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

LEADER: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

PEOPLE: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

LEADER: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

PEOPLE: **The people who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

LEADER: O come, let us worship the Lord!

PEOPLE: **God has done wondrous things!**

*HYMN

What Child Is This
#219 UMH

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)

Author: William C. Dix (1865)

Music: GREENSLEEVES

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60: 1-6 (NRSVUE)

¹ Rise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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 in their nurses’
arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to
you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ 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.

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

SHARING OF FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20AM

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40AM

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GIFTS THE CHILDREN BRING TO JESUS

During our 5pm Christmas Eve service, the children were invited to consider: "As the Angels brought gifts of music and words 'Be not afraid,' What gift would I give to the King of Angels?" Without much editing here are their answers:

Gold, Frankincense, Mur
food and faith
love
a paci
everything
my special stuffies: Snee, Bee and Hop
my book about Baby Jesus
\$ and love
turtle
cat
ballet dance
love
a healthy life
a stuffie
I want to give Baby Jesus my snack.
peace
Baby Shark and Bluey
crib
kindness
love, kindness and food
A happy life! And happy birthday!
a pile of gold and food
Legos
a place to live and money and food
bow
toys
bread and presents
a kiss
milk and bottle
giving
songs
hope, presents, happiness
Good gifts—all the trucks in the world!
hope
a candle for light
a bed with a squishmallow
money, clothes, music
and lots of beautifully colored angels!

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful
#234 UMH, refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Text & Music: John F. Wade (1743)



PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

God, we confess that ours is still a world in which
Herod seems to rule:

the powerful are revered,
the visions of the wise are ignored,
the poor are afflicted
and the innocent are killed.

You show us that salvation comes in the vulnerability
of a child, yet we hunger for the "security" of
weapons and walls. You teach us that freedom comes
in love of service, yet we trample on others in our
efforts to be "free."

Forgive us, God, when we look to the palace instead
of the stable. When we heed politicians more than
prophets. Renew us with the spirit of Bethlehem, that
we may be better prepared for your coming.

Hear the silent confessions of our hearts.

(silent prayers)

Hear us as we join the choirs of angels saying:

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out
into your lives. The light of God shines through the
darkness. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

*MODERN AFFIRMATION

#885

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the
one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose
holy faith let us now declare:

Pastor and People:

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom,
power and love, whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's
good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of
man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the
ground of our hope, and the promise of our
deliverance from sin and death.**

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 5, 2025

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Offer the peace of Christ by saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Respond: And also with you!

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful
#234 UMH, refrain

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Text & Music: John F. Wade (1743)

SHARING OF GIFTS

***RESPONSE**

Fill My Cup, Lord #641

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.

Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.

Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more;

fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

© 1959, renewed 1988, Word Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

Words: Richard Blanchard (1959)

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 72:10-14 (NRSVUE)

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

A King Who Redeems Our Life
Rev. David W. Brown

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EPIPHANY

Moirra Laidlaw

We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light. A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small. A light which also revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corrupt and evil actions. And so, you spoke the Word which would once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth. The angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:

Holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are surely full of your glory. The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it. Blessed is he who was born that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of His love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: 'Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Remember me each time you do this.' After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.'

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP



Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 5, 2025

*HYMN

Star-Child
#2095 FWS

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
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!*

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

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

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

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
© 1994 Hope Publishing Co.

*BLESSING

Adapted from writings by J.M. Deren and W.L. Wallace

May this holy season be for each of us a time of
moving beyond what is "reasonable" and toward the
wonder of His birth;

moving beyond grasping tight to what we have to
unclenching our hands and letting go, following the
Light where it leads;

moving beyond competition toward cooperation,
seeing that all humans are sisters and brothers;

moving beyond the anxiety of small concerns towards
the joys of justice and peace.

Guide us as we seek the Truth, always moving toward
the Divine promise, always open to the unexpected
flash of Grace, to the showing forth of that Love that
embraces us all...

In God the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, may we dwell
in the wonder of Christmas!

*POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Greg Bailie

Liturgist at 9:40 – Shelley Bamberberger

Greeters at 9:40 – Brenda Walker and Leslie and Mark Pennell



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

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



Stay connected with

Armstrong
CHAPEL United Methodist Church

5125 Drake Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45243

513-561-4220

acumc@armstrongchapel.org

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Rev. David Brown, Lead Pastor
Amy Voss, Director of Preschool
Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Congregational Care Pastor
Shanon Rice, Director of Digital Communications

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 5, 2025



Thy word is a
lamp unto my
feet, and a light
unto my path. Psalm 119:105, KJV

Ecclesiastes says that there's a time for everything — and the new year tends to be a time for fresh starts. God's Word is a great place to begin! **Our gift to you for 2025 is a Bible Reading Tracker.** It's not a plan, rather a place to record your progress. We challenge you to spend time in the Word of God in the new year!

Pick up a copy of the reading tracker at the desk in the Atrium or print yours at home:
<https://bit.ly/3ODqg9D>



Come and ring handbells together in January and February! People of all ages — if they are tall enough to stand at the bell tables and are eager to learn — are welcome at the new ringer workshop. This is another short-term commitment for *6 weeks total* for one hour each Sunday from 4:30-5:30pm: Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, (not on Feb 9) then Feb. 16 and Feb. 23. If you are interested, please invite a friend or family member to join you, and contact Chester Imhausen in advance, at cimhausen@gmail.com or at 513-633-6411.



Typically the Third Tuesday of Each Month
MEETING THIS MONTH ON JANUARY 7th
Robin Nielsen's home 7275 Cayuga
(3 minutes from the church)
10:30am-12noon

Experience the sense of purpose that comes from making a small difference in the lives of those who might benefit from a handmade item on their journey to wholeness.

Approximately 100 handmade items were distributed to individuals and non-profits in 2024.

Email Robin at ihbookmom@aol.com with any questions!

WOMEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited

- **Mondays at 9:30am** in the Armstrong Room. New study begins 1/13. *Untangling Faith—Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked.* Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? Author Amberly Neese explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters include our own questions like "Can God be trusted?" and "How can I grow in faith?" Led by Sue Porter and Serena Tsuang.
- **Mondays at 6:30pm** at Panera in Mariemont. New 12-week study begins 1/27. *Through the Desert: A Study on God's Faithfulness* by Lina Abujamra helps us find water for our souls. Whether you're navigating through spiritual deserts or seeking a clearer understanding of God's faithfulness, this experience will awaken your Spirit and draw you closer to God. Join us as we journey through the desert with Abraham, the Israelites, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Along the way, we discover that our own deserts offer gifts of mercy, purpose, and spiritual abundance. Led by Victoria Rhodus. To get your book with video access, please call (513) 379-5187.
- **Tuesdays at 9:45am** at the home of Julie Holland. New Study begins 1/14.
- **Thursdays at 6:30am** in the Armstrong Room. Starting William Barclay's *Gospel of Mark*. Led by Jan Bell and Pam Westrup.

MEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/men

- **Friday Morning Bible Study:** Verse-by-verse study of scripture (currently in 1 Timothy) 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. Continuing to study 1 Corinthians. 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. Led by Bill Woodward.

Women
UNITED
Monthly
Luncheon

JANUARY 8

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

National Exemplar
6880 Wooster Pike

RSVP to Niki Mitchell
nmitchell@armstrongchapel.org

Armstrong
MEN
Craving
Pancakes & Fellowship?

Saturday BREAKFAST

January 11

in the Fellowship Hall
8:00 am - 9:30 am