



Order for the Public Worship of God  
January 7, 2024  
Baptism of the Lord  
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “There’s a Song in the Air” arr. Choplin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Composer Weekend, Stephanie Carson

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*  
Leader: Let us proclaim the gracious deeds of God;  
**People: for the steadfast love of the Lord is great.**  
Leader: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,  
**People: the glory of God’s people and a light to all.**  
Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;  
**All: in faith let us worship God!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
*(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)*

\*HYMN #147 “The First Noel” THE FIRST NOWELL  
The first Nowell 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:* Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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.  
And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
*Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem in took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
*Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*  
Almighty and loving God, You do not change with the changing years,  
but we are creatures of time. As we look back at the road we have trav-  
eled, we give thanks for Your faithful mercies along the way. Where  
the road has been dark, You have not failed us though we have often  
failed You. Forgive us we pray. You are our guide and our goal, our  
strength, and our stay. In this new year, may we trust in You and lean  
not on our own understanding. In all our ways may we acknowledge  
You, confidentially trusting that You will lead us on our life’s journey  
in faith, hope and love. In Jesus’ name and for his sake we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 GLORIA PATRI  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen

\*APOSTLES’ CREED *(Together, see Ignite)*

ANTHEM “Rise Up, Children Arise” Mary McDonald  
Mike Wood, Soloist  
*(incorporating spirituals “Rise Up Shepherd” and “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”)*

CALL TO OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY—#606 OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

SERMON “An Epiphany of Hope and Meaning for the New Year”  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

\*HYMN #141 “On this Day Earth Shall Ring” PERSONENT HODIE

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER  
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP  
*(To symbolize our unity in Christ, we hold the bread until the Elders and Deacons  
are served and then all partake as one body. To symbolize our personal relation  
ship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN #151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” KINGS OF ORIENT  
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 night, 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.  
Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God Most High. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies *Refrain*

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” arr. Weber

*\*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.*

Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music; David Furr, Organist

IGNITE

ignite is a contemporary worship service at 9:00 that delivers the  
message of Jesus Christ through Powerful Music, Media  
& Scripture Based Sermons.

WELCOME

PRAISE SONG

“We Three Kings”

MEET & GREET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

“What Child Is This”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

\*APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and  
earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was con-  
ceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered un-  
der Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he de-  
scended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic  
church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the res-  
urrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“A Strange Way to Save the World”

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1–12 (NRSV)

SERMON

“An Epiphany of Hope and Meaning for the New Year”  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

SONG OF DEDICATION

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music