

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2024

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Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available

*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Carlisle ~ Charles Lockhart,

arr. David Blackwell

As the candles are lit, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Magi waited and watched,
knowing something wondrous would be happening.

P: **We waited for the birth of Jesus;
now something wondrous is about to take root.**

L: The darkness that invaded all lives
was banished by the light of that star.

P: **The darkness that surrounds us is gone!**

L: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

P: **Let us become those who will bring
the light of God's love to others. AMEN**

*HYMN

We Three Kings

UMH #254

OPENING PRAYER

L: Holy God, you have hung a star in the night sky
and have illuminated our way.

Oh, if we would only look heavenward and seek you in this world.

P: **Clothe us with hope, faith and trust for our journey.**

**Open our eyes to find Jesus in our world, in our days, in our
midst. Help us to brush off the dust that often falls upon us.**

L: Assure us, please assure us that in the giving of ourselves to you,
you do not hear our hesitant word "only".

You remove it from our speech and whisper,

"What a perfect gift you have given, made perfect by my Son."

P: **Thank you for calling us precious and beloved and gifts
to be kept, cherished and used for your purpose. AMEN**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: God of Promise and mysterious Light, be with us this day as we journey in our faith; to meet your Gift. Give us courage and hope along our way, as your light will continue to glow brightly in our path, leading us to service and discipleship in Jesus' Name. AMEN

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG

CHOIR ANTHEM

... AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD

GOD'S WORD – 1st READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

GOD'S WORD – 2nd READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

GOD'S WORD – THE GOSPELS

Matthew 2:1-12

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE Rev. Heidi Chamberlain Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

We Would See Jesus

UMH #256

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Words for the *Lord's Prayer* can be found UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Berceuse ~ Armas Jarnefelt,

arr. Edward Broughton

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: We have seen your star, O God, shining brightly over us and all the peoples of the earth. Teach us to trust your light. Help us take risks, that we might step out in faith into the unknown. Guide us to the place where you abide, that we may be overwhelmed with joy like the magi before us. Guide us to the stable of your love, that we may offer you the gifts of our lives. AMEN

A SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE

UMH #12

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

UMH #349

BENEDICTION

L: Go forth and follow the star. When you have found the child, tell the good news to the world. May the blessings of God's love fill your hearts with overwhelming joy. AMEN

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Wise Men still seek Him... Blessed New Year!

What, then, is the blessing God has for us this first Sabbath of the year?



"My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

God’s blessing for the New Year is to keep us, to be gracious to us, and to give us peace. How do we receive this blessing? We must have faith in God and his promises, we must pray, and we must give and serve, whether from our material resources or by using our bodies to serve. As we sow generously, we will reap a great harvest of grace sufficient to meet our every need. Be blessed!

**“People who journey without being changed are nomads.
People who change without going on a journey are chameleons.
People who go on a journey and are changed by the journey are pilgrims.”**

~ Dr. Jody Seymour, Sr. Pastor of Davidson UMC in Davidson, North Carolina
Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2013

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Un-decorating and Pizza Party:** January 14th, following worship
- **Cheery’Os:** Usually meets the second Tuesday of the month, however, the next meeting date is TBD
- **NCPPC Martin Luther King Event:** January 15th, 6:30pm - tile Room
- **Trustee Meeting:** January 17th, 6pm - online
- **Church Council Meeting:** January 24th, 6pm - online
- **Worship Team Meeting:** January 31st, 6pm - online

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolyte: Rebecca Clements
Counters	Readers
1/7: Robin Howard, TBA	1/7: Nancy Matthews
Greeters/Ushers	Fellowship Time Hosts
1/7: Carrie Livernois	1/7: Caroline Potter & Olga Virgil

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Choir Director: Warren Potter ♦ Organist: Deborah Nikkari

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor’s Office Hours [Parsonage Office]: Monday 3:00 – 5:00 pm; Tuesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church office: 315-265-7474 ♦ email: info@potsdamumc.org

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>