

WE ARE GATHERED

SONG- **ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

Worship Song – **EMMANUEL (feat. Ryan Kennedy)**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (*pastor front center*)

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- _____
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- WL: Last Announcement: Let us stand, turn to our neighbor and say hello.

WL: Please join me in prayer ... **<PAUSE>**

WL: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God is forgiving and gracious.

Join with me in your hearts for this time of confession.

ALL: We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone, and we grow fearful. We cling to false comforts, and we turn away from our neighbors. We plead: come to us, bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: Friends, God's spirit embraces us with forgiveness and grace. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

Worship Song – **YOUR PRAISE GOES ON**

P: The congregation may be seated.

WE ARE TRANSFORMED

Word – Matthew 2:1-12 *NRSVue*

Introduction:

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

P: ¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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."

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⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON –

SERMON RESPONSE – BORN ON THAT DAY

WL: Please stand. We join in a time of prayer. Following each petition, please join me in saying: Your mercy is great. Let us pray.

After each petition, please respond with:

WL: Hear Us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

Offering

WL: You may be seated.

- We take a moment to offer our thanks to God.
- I invite you to use the gratitude card in your bulletin.
- Place it in the offering plate your gratitude card along with any offering. You can also make an offering electronically.

Would the ushers please come forward.

Offering Song- WHEN LOVE WAS BORN

Communion

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again,
after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

P: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward.

There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set
and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution – WHAT CHILD IS THIS

Post communion prayer:

P: Blessed Jesus,
at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.
Now send us forth to extend our tables
and to share your gifts
until that day when all feast together
at your heavenly banquet.

All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Sending & Blessing

WL:

ALL: Amen.

Sending Song – WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT

Dismissal

WL: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

ALL: Thanks be to God!