

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | Epiphany, January 3, 2021

- Livestream at **9:30 am on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC> and on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIHbHBJ74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?> and on **our church website** <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>
- Available for **phone-in recording** at **11:00 am** @ 1-312-626-6799, provide meeting #394 134 739

Gathering

Greeting

Prelude

As with Gladness, Men of Old

D. Dahl

Call to Worship

*Arise, for the glory of God is shining on us.
Shadows shall cover the earth,
but the brightness of God's presence is upon us.*

*Lift up your eyes and look around,
arise and shine for our light has come!*

*Nations will be drawn to our light,
and rulers to the dawning of our new day;
people are gathering to come home.*

*Lift up your eyes and look around,
arise and shine for our light has come!*

*We will see this and be filled with joy;
we will tremble with excitement.*

*Great caravans will come,
bringing gifts of praise.
Everyone will tell the good news
of what God has done.*

*Lift up your eyes and look around,
arise and shine for our light has come!*

Song

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Is Come

1. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the people,
but the Lord shall arise upon you and
his glory shall be seen upon you.
Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come
and the glory of the Lord is upon you.

2. The nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
And they shall call you the city of the Lord,
O Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come
and the glory of the Lord is upon you.

3. Lift up your eyes round about and see;
all gather themselves together;
and they shall come, your sons from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried at your side.
Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come
and the glory of the Lord is upon you.

4. Then you shall see and be filled with joy,
and your heart shall thrill with rejoicing.
The abundance of the sea will be brought unto you,
and the wealth of the nations unto you.
Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come
and the glory of the Lord is upon you.

5. The sun shall no more be your light by day,
nor moon your light by night,
for the Lord shall be your everlasting light,
and the days of your mourning shall be ended.
Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come
and the glory of the Lord is upon you.

Words: Isaiah 60:1-5, 14, 20; para. Eric Glass, 1974 (ren.), alt. © 1995 Warner/Chappell Music Canada, Ltd. Music: Eric Glass, 1974, © 1974 (ren.) Warner/Chappell Music Canada Ltd.; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 2012 Warner/Chappell Music Corp., admin. Alfred Music Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723218

Prayer of Invitation

O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Amen

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Sung refrain:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

*God, give your judgments to the king.
Give your righteousness to the king's son.
Let him judge your people with righteousness
and your poor ones with justice.
Let the mountains bring peace to the people;
let the hills bring righteousness. **Refrain**
Let the king bring justice to people who are poor;
let him save the children of those who are needy,
but let him crush oppressors!
Let the king live as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, generation to generation.
Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass,
like showers that water the earth. **Refrain***

*Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives,
and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.
Let the kings of Tarshish and the islands
bring tribute; let the kings of Sheba and Seba
present gifts.
Let all the kings bow down before him;
let all the nations serve him. **Refrain**
Let it be so,
because he delivers the needy who cry out,
the poor, and those who have no helper.
He has compassion on the weak and the needy;
he saves the lives of those who are in need.
He redeems their lives from oppression and violence;
their blood is precious in his eyes.*

Hymn

Joy to the World

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1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848
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Proclamation

Preparing for the Scripture Reading *Close your eyes and imagine a sky full of stars.*

Some stars seem brighter than others. Starlight comes in different colors. Perhaps you can even see one that is sparkling blue. These are the stars in the sky that you can see. Now imagine all the stars that are there but are too far away for you to see with your naked eye. Now let one star stand out in the whole field of stars. This is the star that is calling to you. Notice what the star is like: its color; its brightness; its distance. You are the only one who sees this star. How special that this star has chosen you! When you are ready, gently open your eyes.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn

We Three Kings

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1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Words and Music by John Hopkins, Jr., 1857. Public Domain

Message

The Stars We Follow

Anthem

Come Follow That Star

D. Besig

Response

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 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.**

Passing the Peace

Invitation to Offering

Moment of Meditation

The Three Kings

P. Cornelius, arr. I. Atkins

Doxology

(from Angels from The Realms of Glory)
**All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th' eternal three in one:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.**

Words by James Montgomery, 1816. Music by Henry T. Smart, 1867. Public Domain

Prayer

Sending

Song

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Words: John W. Work, Jr. 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20); Words are Public Domain
Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986
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Blessing

Sung response:

***Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel,
has come to us, the people of God! Amen.***

Words: 9th cent Latin. Music: 15th cent. French; harm. by Thomas Helmore Public Domain

Postlude

Go Tell It on the Mountain

E. L. Diemer

Call to Worship, Prayer of Invitation, Preparing for the Scripture Reading, Offertory Prayer. Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2020–2021
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**We have resumed ONLINE ONLY WORSHIP SERVICES
until further notice.**

We will continue to offer **live-streamed services on Facebook, YouTube,
and our church website** at 9:30 am
and will continue to offer **a phone-in option**
on Sundays at 11:00 am.

You may mail your offerings and contributions to our postal address below.
To set up online giving directly from your bank to the church's account, please call the office for details.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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