

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | Epiphany, January 2, 2022

- **IN-PERSON 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary
- **LIVESTREAM** online at **9:30 am on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC>
- on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIHbHBJ74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?>
- on **our church website** <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>
- and by **phone 517-247-2477**

Gathering

Prelude

As with Gladness, Men of Old

D. Dahl

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

*A star shining brightly in the East,
discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.
A journey into unknown territory,
taken by those who have courage and curiosity.
An encounter with an evil, commanding presence,
evil that was faced, yet resisted with care.
The Holy One recognized, despite humble origin,
the glory of the gifts, given to God's Chosen Child. *(The Christ candle is lit.)*
Come, let us worship.*

Hymn

The First Noel

245

(Sung by ALL)

1. The first Noel 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

(Sung by Vocalists)

2. 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.
ALL: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

(Sung by Women)

3. 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.

ALL: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

(Sung by Men)

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

ALL: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

(Sung by ALL)

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Words and Music: Traditional English carol; harm. from Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871.
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Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

**O God, Searcher of all our hearts,
you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own.
As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace,
and to enter anew into covenant with you,
reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.
Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,
and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

*O God, our Covenant Friend,
you have been gracious to us
through all the years of our lives.*

*We thank you for your loving care,
which has filled our days and brought us
to this time and place.*

We praise your holy name, O God.

*You have given us life and reason,
and set us in a world filled with your glory.
You have comforted us with family and friends,
and ministered to us
through the hands of our sisters and brothers.*

We praise your holy name, O God.

*You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,
and have given us your peace.
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling
in Christ Jesus.*

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.**

Hymn

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.
1. Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.
2. O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!

Away in a Manger

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words anon.
Music by James R. Murray, 1887
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*You have given us a place
in the fellowship of your Spirit
and the witness of your Church.*
We praise your holy name, O God.

*You have been our light in darkness
and a rock of strength
in adversity and temptation.
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.*
We praise your holy name, O God.

*You remembered us when we forgot you.
You followed us even when we tried
to flee from you.
You met us with forgiveness
when we returned to you.
For all your patience and overflowing grace.*
We praise your holy name, O God.

He Is Born

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.
3. Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace.

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.

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Music: 18th Cent. French carol; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988
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Scripture Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

Response to the Scripture *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!*

Message *Pilgrimage*

Response

Introduction to the Covenant Prayer

Duet *Come, Follow That Star* D. Besig

Invitation to the Offering

Moment of Meditation

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: James Montgomery, 1816, alt. Music: Henry Smart, 1867. Public Domain

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

...Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

*Be satisfied that Christ shall give you
your place and work.*

Lord, make me what you will.

**I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Song of Preparation

What Feast of Love

v2

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

Communion Invitation

..I invite you to say these words of covenant with me as words of preparation.

**Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.
I take you, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, for my portion,
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

Sharing the Bread

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

v1

Sharing the Cup

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

v3

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Prayer after Communion *The almighty God searches and knows your heart.*

**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today
without guile or reservation.
If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.
And now, glory be to you, O God the Creator,
whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God the Creator.
Glory be to you, O God the Son,
who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood,
and now is my Savior and Redeemer.
Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit,
who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.
O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you have now become my Covenant Friend.
And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant.
So be it.
And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Sending

We Three Kings

254

Hymn

(Sung by ALL)

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.

(Sung by Men)

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

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

(Sung by ALL)

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.

(Sung by Soloist)

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

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

(Sung by ALL)

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: John H. Hopkins
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Benediction

Benediction Response

(Sung by all)

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

Postlude

We Three Kings

Traditional

Call to Worship. Pastoral Prayers to Share: Year C by David Sparks © 2003 David Sparks, Wood Lake Publishing Inc. Used by permission. / Prayer for Illumination. David Tripp, England, 20th Century, Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service, UMC Book of Worship. / Litany of Thanksgiving, Introduction to the Covenant Prayer, The Great Thanksgiving (alt. Rob McPherson), Communion Invitation, Prayer after Communion. Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service, UMC Book of Worship.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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