

First United Methodist Church of Elgin

January 03, 2021

Prelude

Jonathan Besançon

Welcome/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Call to Worship

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Light has broken in on the darkness of the world!

Can you see it? Can you feel it?

Open the eyes of your heart and light the light within.

There is a star beckoning us to follow.

Let's go and see where it leads us today in worship.

Let's see where it leads us tomorrow as we go about our day, our week, and the rest of our lives.

Opening Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain ”

Matthew Weber

United Methodist Hymnal #251

Prayer

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Help us to be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey to find the one who will truly set us free. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Offertory

“A Star Shone Bright”

Matthew Weber

Worship and Song #3051

Ways to Give:

Mail your tithes and offerings to:
First UMC Elgin
216 E. Highland Ave.
Elgin IL 60120

Give Online:
Visit the Online Giving page on the First
UMC Elgin website @ fumcelgin.org/give
or visit paypal.me/fumcelgin

First United Methodist Church of Elgin

January 03, 2021

Scripture Readings

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Isaiah 60:1-6 (MSG)

¹⁻⁶ “Get out of bed, Jerusalem!
Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.
GOD’S bright glory has risen for you.
The whole earth is wrapped in darkness,
all people sunk in deep darkness,
But GOD rises on you,
his sunrise glory breaks over you.
Nations will come to your light,
kings to your sunburst brightness.
Look up! Look around!
Watch as they gather, watch as they approach you:
Your sons coming from great distances,
your daughters carried by their nannies.
When you see them coming you’ll smile—big smiles!
Your heart will swell and, yes, burst!
All these people returning by sea for the reunion,
a rich harvest of exiles gathered in from the nations!
And then streams of camel caravans as far as the eye can see,
young camels of nomads in Midian and Ephah,
Pouring in from the south from Sheba,
loaded with gold and frankincense,
preaching the praises of GOD.

Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Meditation

Jonathan Besançon



Joys and Concerns can be submitted via the [First UMC Elgin website](http://FirstUMCElgin.org) by visiting fumcelgin.org/fumc_prayers. Your prayer requests will be shared with the congregation via email and during the Sunday morning worship service with your permission.

First United Methodist Church of Elgin

January 03, 2021

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Seeing & Acting Differently

Matthew 2:1-13 (NIV)

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶”But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

First United Methodist Church of Elgin

January 03, 2021

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

see insert

Closing Hymn

“We Three Kings”
United Methodist Hymnal #254

Matthew Weber

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

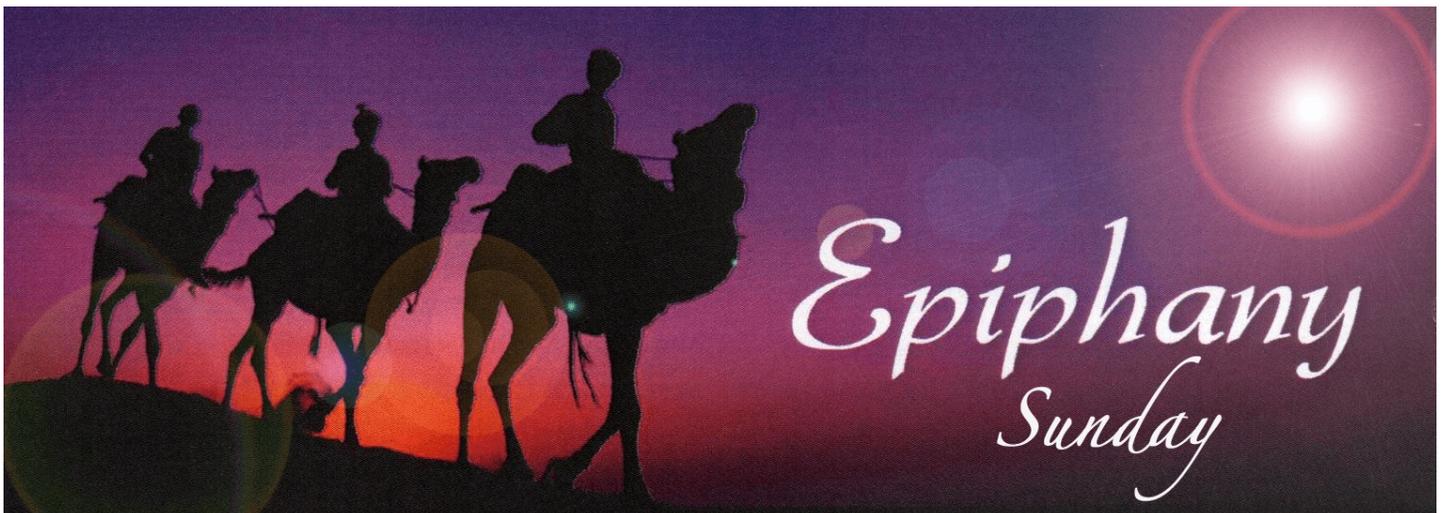
Response

“As We Go”
Worship & Song #3183

Matthew Weber

Postlude

Jonathan Besançon



Holy Communion for Epiphany

Invitation

Christ invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Communion for Epiphany

The Great Thanksgiving (continued)

It is a right and joyous thing to lift our hearts and hands to you,
God of Light and Love,
in thanksgiving for your gift of grace.
Before we knew the unsearchable riches
of your child Jesus,
we walked in shadows and cloud.
But now as you reveal radiance to the world,
we join the hymn sung in glory without end:

**Holy God, Grace Revealed, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Creator God, and blessed is your child Jesus.
While wise ones brought him gold, incense, and myrrh,
he grew to reveal to us countless treasures,
radiant with life and grace,
revealing the Shining Mystery which is You.
Jesus broke bread and broke open your love for us.
He blessed the cup and you poured out mercy for the world.

**Christ was promised; Christ is born;
Christ will dwell among us.**

Come, Spirit, dwell among us, your sons and daughters,
gathered here together to feast at this table.
Use us to reveal your gifts of love and light for the world.

**God of the ages, shining among us, we are yours!
Amen!**

