

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday after Christmas Day – January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

Land Acknowledgement

I want to acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory
the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saukteaux (SOTO),
Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through
him; yet the world did not know him.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only
son, full of grace and truth. Come let us worship God.**

Hymn 495 The heavens declare your glory, Lord

1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!

**In every star your wisdom shines,
but when our eyes behold your word,
we read your name in clearer lines.**

2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise

**to all the earth, and never stand,
so when your truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.**

3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest

**till through the world your truth has run,
till Christ has all the nations blest
who see the light or feel the sun.**

4. Great sun of righteousness, arise

and bless the world with heavenly light!

**Your gospel makes the simple wise;
your laws are pure, your judgements right.**

5. Your noblest wonders here we view

in souls renewed and sins forgiven:

Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,

and make your word my guide to heaven.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 173 We three kings

**1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star of 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.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star of 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,
worshipping God on high.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star of 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.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,**

**westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

Refrain:

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

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ
Jesus to open a path to new life, but we fall back on
what is familiar. We confess that we are in love with our
old ways and our resolutions for change fall short.
Forgive us for sins committed and virtues undone. We
confess that we do what we should not. We confess
that we do not do what we should. Forgive us.**

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For
ever and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (*minister*)

Hymn 172 As with gladness men of old

**1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright:**

so, most gracious Lord, may we
ever more be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.

Responsive Reading **Psalms 147:12-20** **p. 590 NT & Psalms**

¹²Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**¹³For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and blessed your children within your walls.**

¹⁴He sends peace across your nation
and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.

**¹⁵He sends his orders to the world—
how swiftly his word flies!**

¹⁶He sends the snow like white wool;
he scatters frost upon the ground like ashes.

¹⁷He hurls the hail like stones.

Who can stand against his freezing cold?

¹⁸Then, at his command, it all melts.

He sends his winds, and the ice thaws.

¹⁹**He has revealed his words to Jacob,
his decrees and regulations to Israel.**

²⁰**He has not done this for any other nation;
they do not know his regulations.**

Praise the Lord!

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 31:7-14 p. 643 pew Bible

Ephesians 1:3-14 p. 332 NT & Psalms

John 1:1-18 p. 158 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **Epiphany? What's that?**

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in good times and hard times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to offer the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn 472 **We are God's people**

**1. We are God's people,
the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit,
established by the word;
our cornerstone is Christ alone,
and strong in him we stand:
oh let us live transparently,
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**2. We are God's loved ones,
the bride of Christ our Lord,**

**for we have known it,
the love of God outpoured;
now let us learn how to return
the gift of love once given:
oh let us share each joy and care
and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.**

**3. We are the body
of which the Lord is head,
called to obey him,
now risen from the dead;
he wills us be a family,
diverse yet truly one:
oh let us freely give our gifts,
and so shall God's work on earth be done.**

**4. We are a temple,
the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness,
a cup to hold God's grace;
alone, we die, for on its own
each ember loses fire:
yet joined in one the flame burns on
to give warmth and light, and to inspire.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude