

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Brenda Portman b. 1980
found in UMH 218

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Max Reger 1873-1916
found in UMH 247

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Many: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

One: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Many: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

All: Let the favor of God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands.

*Hymn

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

UMH 173

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o’er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day’s return, till thy mercy’s beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

*Praise Songs

God You're So Good

God you're so good. God you are kind.
God you are wonderful. My God, you are excellent...

Excellent is Thy name. Excellent is Thy might.
God you are wonderful. My God you are excellent...

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

Prayer for Epiphany (*unison*)

**Eternal God,
we have seen the star of your glory
rising in splendor.
The radiance of your incarnate Word
pierces the night that covers the earth
and signals the dawn of justice and peace.
May his brightness illumine our lives
and beckon all people to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh. Amen.**

Children's Time

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230, v. 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Afe Akò Aprow

H. B. Sam

The Year has Run It's Course

The Year has run its course and we are still alive
God has granted us life and has made it a good year.
Happy New Year, Happy New Year
May we live to see the course of another year
Happy New Year, and may we live to see the course of another year.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem

“We Have Seen His Star in the East”

John Carter b. 1930

We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.
Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
O Morning Star, how fair and bright, thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou root of Jesse, David’s Son,
My Lord and Savior thou hast won my heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy, fair and glorious all victorious, rich in blessing.
Rule and might o’er all possessing.

Message

Holy Communion

“The Great Thanksgiving”

UMH 13-14

*The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live
in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion.
At the direction of the ushers, come forward using the center aisle to stand or
kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements
and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles.
Please alert the ushers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary.
Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.*

The Immigrant Apostles’ Creed (*unison*)

I believe in Almighty God

**Who guided the people in exile and in exodus
The God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
The God of foreigners and immigrants**

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,

**Who was born away from his people in his home,
Who fled his country with his parents
When his life was in danger**

When he returned to his own country

**He suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,
The servant of foreign power.**

**Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured
And unjustly condemned to death.
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,
Not as a scorned foreigner
But to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
Who speaks all languages, lives all countries,
And reunites all races.
I believe that the Church is the secure home
For foreigners and for all believers.
I believe that the communication of saints begins
When we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.
I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,
And in reconciliations, which heals our brokenness.
I believe that in the Resurrection, God will unite us as one people
In which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.
I believe in life eternal,
In which no one will be a foreigner but all will be citizens
Of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcement

*Hymn "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted" See last page

*Benediction

Postlude

The Magi Kenneth Kosche b. 1947
based on *Du matin ai rescountra lou trin*

Hymn: Stable Lamp is Lighted



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



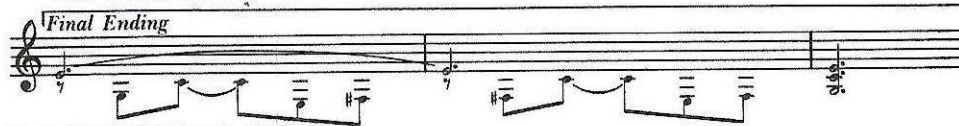
And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry;
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are re - on - ciled. _____



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 Music: Andújar, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 76

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Chris Kerns,
 Byungmoo Lee, William Ness, Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah,
 Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 90 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.

Prayer for Epiphany – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 191.

The Immigrant Apostles' Creed - Attributed by Rev. Jose Luis Casal

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