

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the radiance of a star guided the travelers to the feet of Jesus where they offered their most precious gifts - gold, frankincense and myrrh. You have given us more than a star to guide us - you have revealed your glory and your love in the person of Jesus - the Light of the world. As we offer our thanks for such wondrous gifts to us, we recognize our responsibility to bear his light and love into the areas of people's lives darkened by pain and fear, poverty and oppression, sorrow and hopelessness. We confess the times when we choose to go our own way rather than be guided by you. We confess the times when we are reluctant to allow the power and radiance of Christ to flow through us. Strengthen us with your Spirit to follow wherever you lead us and to reveal your glory and love through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. We are God's new creation. Believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*all sing*)

Glo-ria in Excelsis Deo!

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *"The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you."*)

Response - *"And also with you."*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

+ *Children and Youth may now leave for their classes*

* HYMN 67 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning Morning Star

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

SECOND LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON “Somewhere Else” Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY A New Year Reginald Unterseher

A New Year! Ring out old sorrow, bring in joy and harmony.

Ring out fear's cold isolation, bring in hope in community.

Leave the shadows that shroud us, bless the lessons they give.

Turn our hearts to the light where we may live.

A New Year, leave hate and anger, bring in peace and dignity.

Ring out doubt and separation, bring in faith and unity.

Ring in love!

* THE DOXOLOGY Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal and ever-living God...

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name.

SANCTUS 581 (choir and congregation)

Joseph Roff

Pastor: Holy God, in Your mercy . . .

. . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: We take this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate this Holy Sacrament. . . . And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

People: 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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.—Revelation 3:20

All who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to participate in this celebration.

BREAD: To be taken individually, symbolic of your personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ.

CUP: Please wait until all are served, symbolic of your corporate belonging together in the body of Christ. Grape juice is the fruit of the vine used in our celebration of the sacrament.

ANTHEM**The Shepherd's Farewell***Hector Berlioz*

*Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother, Shelter thee with tender care!
Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the Shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!
Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely though the wild!*

(TEXT: *L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST*. TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH, PAUL ENGLAND)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**THE SENDING OUT***** HYMN 63**

As with Gladness Men of Old

*Dix**** BENEDICTION***** CHORAL AMEN****POSTLUDE**

Organ Point (on the Full Organ)

Nicolas de Grigny

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had

stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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