



**January 5, 2025
Epiphany**

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

“Three Kings’ Prelude”

Williamson

Welcome

Call to Worship

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see,

God is there.

All: Let us worship God!

Songs of Praise	“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”	#570
	“Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”	#99
	“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”	#581

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess we often do not trust you fully. We admit we often fail to obey you. Instead, we live according to our own priorities. We have not grown into your call to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. We have not worshiped you with everything we are and everything we have. We have not esteemed others nearly to the level we esteem ourselves. We have forsaken your assignment to go and make disciples of all peoples. Forgive us, O Lord. Bring us back to complete trust in you and joyful obedience. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Carrie Heins
Time for Young Disciples		Pastor Matt
Scripture Reading	Luke 2:21-35	
Sermon	“A Light for All People”	Pastor Matt

Responding to the Word

Hymn of Response	“Arise, Your Light Is Come”	#102
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Affirmation of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering

Song of Praise and Prayer of Dedication

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Communion - Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord's Supper

Communion Hymn

“The First Nowell”

see slides

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Closing Hymn "Jesus, the Light of the World" #100

Benediction

Postlude "A Time for New Beginnings" L. Smith

Next Sunday's Worship - January 12, 2025, Baptism of the Lord

Psalm 29, *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, "Can You Hear It?"

After his baptism from John, Jesus prayed. As he prayed, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." What is unclear is who actually heard that voice. Even if it were meant for all to hear, clearly there were those who doubted it, ignored it, or rejected it outright. What does it mean to you that Jesus is God's Beloved? Also, take a moment to read Jesus' genealogy in Luke 3:23-38. Do any of those names look familiar to you? What does their inclusion in Jesus' family tree mean to us today?

Lastly, on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we will have an opportunity to renew our baptisms as a way of making a fresh start on the new year.