

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

*Advent Introit

"Come Light Our Hearts"

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait 2x
Truly our hope is in You 2x

O peace above the greatest peace
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore
Come Light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait 2x
Truly our hope is in You 2x

O Lord of life, you bring us peace,
Your radiance shines on all who look
To you in the dark, Emmanuel come,
Come light our hearts

Lighting the Candle of Peace

[Reading based on Micah 5:2-5]

People: God of Peace, you send us the Prince of Peace. We long for his peace to rule in our lives and relationships. We yearn for every corner of your world to be subject to your peace. We eagerly await the days when your whole flock will live in the security of your peace. May we, through the power of your Spirit, shine the peace of Christ in the darkness. In Jesus 'name we pray, amen.

Preparing for God's Word

Christmas Carols Requests

Prayer of Confession

[Inspired by Matthew 2:1-18]

All: Merciful God, we wish we were more like those Magi who saw the coming of the Christ Child, dropped everything that they were doing, and traveled to worship Jesus. And yet we recognize that too often we are more like Herod. Too often in our actions or inactions, we find our need for control more compelling than the needs of those around us. Too often profit, power, and fear of change keep us from following your guiding light. Heavenly Father, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples of Christ, without fear of the cost. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on 1 John 1:5-7]

Leader: Hear the Good News. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

People: But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Praise God.

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me." After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

*Hymn of Preparation

"We Three Kings"

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 with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worship Him God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrow, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Earth to Heaven replies

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.” 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On 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 and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sermon

“Fear Not... Fear of Strangers”

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[particular prayers]

Leader: Hear our prayer, Lord

People: Come, Immanuel, and fill our lives.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. 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.

Offering

Offertory

Choral Anthem

"How Far is it to Bethlehem," Matt Woods

*Response

#606, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#155, "Raise a Song of Gladness"

*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able