

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

\* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *From Heaven Above* Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

In the beginning our God created the light.

**Morning broke open on the first day.**

This God of ours sent the light.

**Jesus the Christ came to the world's people.**

Morning light opens for everyone.

**God's Light illumines our lives**

**and opens us to worship this day. Amen.**

\* HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* No. 411

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

**We search for your light, Star Caster,**

**but too often end up settling**

**for the dimness of temptation.**

**Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure,**

**for we expect him to fulfill our desires,**

**rather than your hopes for us.**

**We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment,**

**rather than those of servanthood,**

**of compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Shaper of our lives,**

**that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace.**

**Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago,**

**who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace,**

**instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign.**

**As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**fill us with the light of your joy and love.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

**This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry  
and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

**Come to Bethlehem and see: Him whose birth the angels sing**

**Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the newborn King.**

**Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

## HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6 Pg. 707

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 3:1-2, 5-9 Pg. 185

The word of the Lord. Deacon

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Hallelujah to the King* Patsy Ford King

TIME FOR CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

***This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.***

***Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.***

SERMON *The Light of the World* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**In the beginning was the Word,**

**and the Word was with God,**

**and the Word was God.**

**He was in the beginning with God.**

**All things came into being through him,**

**and without him not one thing came into being.**

**What has come into being in him was life,**

**and the life was the light of all people.**

**The light shines in the darkness,**

**and the darkness did not overcome it.**

--John 1:1-5

\* HYMN *The First Nowell* No. 56

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER                      Front of Hymnal Pg. 16  
*(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY                      *Polish Lullaby Carol*                      Arr. Edwin Arthur Kraft

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING    No. 53 Verse 3

***So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come one and all to own Him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!***

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gathering God, you create us and redeem us;  
you call us by name and we are precious in your sight.  
This good news overwhelms us with joy.  
With gratitude, we give you what we have and who we are.  
May these gifts be expressions of your great delight  
for your people in all the places of the earth. Amen.**

\* HYMN                      *We Three Kings of Orient Are*                      No. 66

\* CHARGE & BENEDECTION

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE    *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (sing twice)  
***Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!***

POSTLUDE                      *Improvisation on "We Three Kings"*                      David Holden

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.*

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Pulpit Elder: Jim Niquette  
Greeter: Kevin J. Myers  
Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh

Deacon Reader: Janette Powers  
Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Ted Willis  
Children's Time: Linda Valo

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*WPC Mission Statement  
To worship God through faith and action,  
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,  
to be an extended family to all,  
and to serve the community  
through programs, education and prayer.*

*Epiphany  
January 10, 2016*