

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2017*

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* James Woodman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come seeking the light that guides us to life.

We come seeking the light that leads us to love.

The light of God's love pushes back the darkness.

The light of God's love fills us with peace. Let us worship God!

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*HYMN *Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love* No. 62

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of justice and peace, we confess that our actions are evil
whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed;
whenever we guard our own prosperity
at the expense of those who are poor;**

**Or when we safeguard ourselves while we ignore
the cries of those in need of help.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world
more than loving the light of your righteousness
made known to us in Jesus Christ.**

**Judge us with mercy, we pray and extend your grace to us.
Strengthen our faithfulness to you**

and to all who are precious in your sight.

We pray in the name of Christ, our Light.

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE *Christ, Have Mercy on Us* HS No. 11

Christ, have mercy on us, we together sing.

For what you've done to save us, our praise we bring.

You were born on Christmas, God among us here to be.

Bringing us salvation, from sin to set us free. Kyrie eleis.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent God's son into the world- not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

and set free to live a new life in him. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*, v.4 No. 46

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,

Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us;

Peace and love He gave us.

Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 (OT pg. 649)

ANTHEM *Star of the East, Bethlehem's Star* Greg Gilpin

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 (NT pg. 1)

SERMON **Following the Star** Lynne Taylor Clements

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God holds this world in sovereign love.

God kept God's promise, sending Jesus into the world.

**We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

**As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful
praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in this world.**

**With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.**

**And we are confident that the light that shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.**

Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you. Amen.

—From *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 5-6

*HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HS No. 44

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal pg. 16)

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Jyothi Dho Prabhu (Give Us Light)* Charles Vas
(Sung in Hindi and English) arr. Valerie Shields

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING HS No. 81

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame:
All glory, honor to God's name.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN *Arise, Your Light Has Come* No. 411

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Johann Pachelbel