Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2024
We Gather, Seeking the Light

Music for Gathering
The Community Gathers | Threshold Moment

Call to Worship
(The parts in bold are intended to be read by many voices, including yours.)

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'
We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.
We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'
We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.
We gather wanting to know,
'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'
We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Opening Hymn | “The First Noel”

We Look and Listen for the Light

Gospel Reading | Matthew 2: 1-12 (NT P. 1)

Witness to the Word (Choral Anthem)
Prayer of the People + The Prayer Jesus Taught

We present our gifts to God

Gift of Song | “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Message: A new star, a new king, and a new way home
Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They 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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then 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.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

We Respond and Follow the Light into Our Daily Lives

A Song of Light | “Shine, Jesus Shine” 2173 FWS

The Story for All Ages (Children’s Time)

We Feast at God’s Table
(All are welcome to receive. Our bread is gluten free and our “wine,” is grape juice.)

Sending Song | “We Three Kings” 254 UMH

Benediction

Postlude
Thank you for worshiping with us. Join us again next week as our worship series, “In a New Light” continues.

January 14, Human Relations Sunday

A New Identity
Gospel: Mark 1: 4-11 (Baptism of Jesus)

Worship Notes:

1. Call to Worship, written by Thomas Shuman, and posted on his excellent Lectionary Liturgies website.
2. “UMH”= United Methodist Hymnal; “FWS”= Faith We Sing Hymnal
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To receive our weekly emails, prayer list, or monthly newsletter, scan the QR code below.
1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor
2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the
3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
4. This star drew nigh to the north-west, o'er Bethlehem
5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverent-

shepherd's in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
east, beyond them far; and to the earth it
came from country far; to seek for a king was
hem it took its rest; and there it did both
ly upon the knee, and offered there, in

keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)
MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
THE FIRST NOEL
Irr. with Refrain
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the brightness of God.
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow Jesus.
I want to look at Jesus.
I want to be with Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and When we have run with patience the race, we

star of my life is Jesus.
show me the way to the Father.
shall know the joy of Jesus.
Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,

in the midst of the darkness shining;
from the shadows into your radiance;
so our faces display your likeness;

Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
ev 'er changing from glory to glory,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.

WORDS: Graham Kendrick (2 Cor. 4:6)
MUSIC: Graham Kendrick
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Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine on me, shine on me.
1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
   field and fountain, bring to crown him again,

2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem’s plain, gold I owns a Deity nigh;
   prayer and praising, life of gathering gloom;

3. Frank incense to offer have I; incense life of gathering gloom;
   sorrowing, sighing, God and sacrifice: Alleluia,

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a
   life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing,

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia,
   field and fountain, bring to crown him again,

WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857 (Mt. 2:1-12)
MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857
KINGS OF ORIENT 88.446 with Refrain
moor and mountain, following yonder star.
ceasing never, over us all to reign.
voices raising, worshiping God on high.
bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.