



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship January 8, 2023 9:30am
Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Star Sunday

Gathering

PRELUDE "Sonata for Bells" by George Friedrich Handel
Linda Dover, organist from *Suite for a Musical Clock*

WELCOME Rev. Sue Trigger

INTROIT "Winter Spirits" by Katharine Hoover
Kat Mason, flute

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are here to worship, to delight in God's beloved son.

ALL: We gather to bring many praises,

One: May the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of the light and love that transforms our common days.

ALL: With a beauty not of our making, we worship and adore you.

*HYMN "Sing of God Made Manifest" SALZBURG
St. 1 and 2

Sing of God Made Manifest 156

1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,

to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:

ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face

myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Nancy Kalesz

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which your light has been given to the world, and yet we focus on ourselves. Help us to turn our eyes to you, Lord, and yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Help us to accept the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of those who seek to follow the light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you and all others!**

*HYMN

"He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

St. 2 - ... that we may have light

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

Equipping

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 42:1–9 (NRSVUE)

Harold Frye

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

SUNG PRAYER

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

by Johann Kuhnau

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

ed. & arr. John Leavitt

Patrick O’Halloran, director

Donna Heer & Chris Lindsay, violins

*How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy
beaming from afar; The host of heav’n rejoices;*

O Righteous Branch, O Jesse’s Rod. You Son of Man and Son of God.

*We, too, will lift our voices; Jesus, holy, yet most lowly,
draw Thou near us; Great Emmanuel, come and hear us.*

*Rejoice, you heav’ns; and earth, reply; with praise,
all people, fill the sky, for this His Incarnation.*

Incarnate God, put forth Your pow’r, Ride on, great Conqueror,

Till all know Your salvation. Amen. Alleluia!

Praise be given evermore, by earth and heaven.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13–17

(NRSVUE)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Resolutions, Promises, and Covenants”

Rev. Sue Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“We Three Kings”
Linda Dover, organist

by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.
arr. Lynn Shaw Bailey

Sending

*HYMN

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

Sts. 1, 2 4, & 5

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

by J.S. Bach

Linda Dover, organist

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

Some music is reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.

