

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Prelude *Twos in the Moon of Wintertime* by Dani Lemieux

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (WOV #646)

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and I declare to you that you are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

Amen.

Sharing a Sign of God's Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

WL: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray.

C : O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Litany

WL: We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies: for the star that led the magi to the manger.

C: that the nations may see the light of Christ;

WL: for the water turned to wine at Cana's wedding,

C: that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;

WL: for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,

C: that the Christ would save us all.

WL: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

Children's Sermon

Star Words

You are invited to receive.

Star Prayer

P: God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. We have been given an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you.

C: It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts.

P: Help us to be open to the lens that this word might offer for the year ahead. Help us not only ponder the gift of our star word but also your Son, the Word Made Flesh, in our hearts so that our hearts are changed by you.

C: We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Holy Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING AND SONG

First Reading

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Before the Gospel is read: **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Reading: **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Song of the Day *I Want to Walk as a Child of Light* (ELW #815)

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is 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.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Apostle's Creed

WL: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

WL: Hear us O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Offering

Offertory Prayer

WL: Let us pray. Generous God,

C: you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine (ELW #677)

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

C: And also with you.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Santus

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us,

C: you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD

Blessing

P: Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen.

Sending

WL: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *For the Beauty of the Earth* by Dani Lemieux

Music By Dani Lemieux

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