

Order of Worship Service – January 4, 2026
Epiphany of the Lord & Communion Sunday

PRELUDES How Brightly Shines the Morning Star – Johann Pachelbel
As with Gladness Men of Old – Don Hustad

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OUR RESPONSE HYMN #106 Jesus, Name Above All Names (HEARN)

OPENING PRAYER

CHOIR Arise, Shine for Your Light Is Come – Eric Thiman

HYMN #181 As with Gladness Men of Old (DIX)

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)
Reader: *The Word of the Lord*
Congregation response: *Thanks be to God.*

CHOIR Star of Hope – Patti Drennan

PRAYER OF BLESSING

HYMN #186 Wise Men They Came to Look for Wisdom
(WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Wilma Wiens
Leader: *Lord, in your mercy*
Congregation response: *Hear our prayer*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)
Reader: *The Word of the Lord*
Congregation response: *Thanks be to God.*

SOLO The Kings - Peter Cornelius

MESSAGE Nations Shall Come to Your Light... – Tony Harwood-Jones

COMMUNION HYMN #150 What Child is This? (GREENSLEEVES)

HOLY COMMUNION

UNISON BENEDICTION #184 Epiphany Prayer

POSTLUDE We Three Kings – arr. Gordon Young

Worship Leader	Keith Dyck
Minister of Pastoral & Spiritual Care	Wilma Wiens
Minister of Music	Margot Sim
Soloist	David Watson

NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 11 (Baptism of the Lord): Randall Holm will be speaking on “2026 and the Dreams of Prophets” with scriptures Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17.

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES (Naida Hearn)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

ARISE, SHINE, FOR THY LIGHT IS COME (Isaiah 60:1-3a)

Arise, shine for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
And gross darkness the people.
But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon Thee.
Arise, shine for thy light is come.

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD (William Chatterton)

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold.
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed.
There to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare.
So may we with holy joy pure, and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasures bring Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way.
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

ISAIAH 60:1-6 (NRSV)

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

STAR OF HOPE (Barbara Furman)

High in the heavens a light is shining,
Through the shadow a candle burns bright.
In the darkness a beacon is beaming,
Guiding the seeker through perilous night.

Over the desert a diamond is gleaming,
Flooding the world with heavenly rays.
Bright, silver promise adorning the pathway,
Leading new pilgrims to the riches of grace.

Star of hope, light everlasting,
Grant us your glory and give us your sight.
Shine in our hearts, illumine our journey.
Lead us to Jesus, the Source of all Light.

Look past the evening, you who are weary,
See how the dawn is burning with gold.
Morning is breaking, a new day is coming,
Painted with promise and gilded with hope.

Star of hope, light everlasting,
Grant us your glory and give us your sight.
Shine in our hearts, illumine our journey.
Lead us to Jesus, the Source of all Light.

WISE MEN, THEY CAME TO LOOK FOR WISDOM (Christopher Idle)

Wise men, they came to look for wisdom, finding one wiser than they knew.
Rich men, they met with one yet richer – King of the kings, they knelt to you.
Jesus, our wisdom from above, wealth and redemption, life and love.

Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries, searching for one who knows the world.
Lost are their names, and strange their journeys, famed is their zeal to find the child.
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed, aliens are found, and known, and named.

Magi, they stooped to see your splendor, led by a star to light supreme.
Promised Messiah, Lord eternal, glory and peace are in your name.
Joy of each day, our Song by night, shine on our path your holy light.

Guests of their God, they opened treasures, incense and gold and solemn myrrh.
Welcoming one too young to question how came these gifts and what they were.
Gift beyond price of gold or gem, make among us your Bethlehem.

MATTHEW 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising 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.' " **7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men, 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 at its rising, 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.

THE KINGS (Peter Cornelius)

Three kings have travelled from lands afar to Jordan, led by the pointing star.
And thus, the quest of the travellers three, where the newborn King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King; gold, incense, myrrh, are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see.
Their royal gifts they show to the King, gold, incense, myrrh their offering.

O child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace, will shine on the way to his resting place,
And though no gift you bear for the King, give him your heart as offering!
Give him your heart!

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (William Dix)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

EPIPHANY PRAYER (Lawrence Hull Stookey)

O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East,
Revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.
Enable us who know your presence with us so to proclaim his unsearchable riches,
That all may come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN