

Toll free call in number! (844) 855-4444, access code 654132# (conference call only)

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



Worship, January 2, 2022, 11:15 am

Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Candles**

Centering Music

+Litany for Epiphany of the Lord

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

(Moment of Silence.)

God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 204). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

+Song *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow (2096)*

Call to Confession

God judges the nations with righteousness and answers the poor with justice. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of

our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. (moment of silence.)

Assurance of Pardon

L: The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.205). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Response of Praise *Go Tell It on the Mountain (refrain)*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 205). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn *As With Gladness, Men of Old (63)*

Scripture John 1:9-18 ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus

Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Epiphany Star Words Everyone is invited to come forward and take a star. On each star is a word that you won't be able to see until you choose a star—or until you let it choose you. You are encouraged to keep whatever word that is on the star you select, even if you don't like it at first. Over the year reflect on your star word, use it in your daily devotions or remember it however you feel called.

Offering Prayer

In response to God's goodness, let us give thanks to God. Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who is the light of the world. Amen.

Musical Offering *Glorify Thy Name arranged by Tom Keene*

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

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

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)

The whole world is full of God's glory (3x)

Holy is the Lord!

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 387). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Taking the Word into the World

+Song: *Sent Out in Jesus' Name (2184)*

+Charge and Benediction

+Stand as you are able

Hymns

Rise up, Shepherd, and Follow

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn; rise up, shepherd, and follow;
 It will lead to the place where the Christ was born; rise up, shepherd, and follow'
 Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow;
 Follow the star to Bethlehem; rise up, shepherd and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words; rise up, shepherd, and follow;
 You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
 Follow, follow rise up shepherd and follow;
 Follow the star to Bethlehem; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

As With Gladness Men of Old

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 ever more 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.

Sent Out in Jesus' Name (2x)

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now,
 To make the world a place in which the kingdom comes.
 The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
 Into a world of love, of justice and of peace,
 The task is ours to do, to set it really free,
 O help us to obey and carry out your will.