

# Epiphany of the Lord

## January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

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### Welcome & Announcements

#### Ringling of the Bell

Prelude "We Three Kings"

*Edwin McLean*

## Gathering Around the Word

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### Call to Worship

One: Arise, shine, your light has come!

**All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!**

One: Darkness has covered the earth,

**All: But the Lord has risen upon us.**

One: A new day, a new year, a new moment is here.

**All: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!**

### Hymn

"What Star is This, With Beams So Bright"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?*

*'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.*

### Call to Confession

*from Isaiah 60:2*

Isaiah proclaimed: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Let us acknowledge the darkness in our lives, repent of our sin, and receive the light of God's mercy.

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, Light of the world,  
we confess that we have not resisted  
the darkness of sin.

You deliver the poor and the helpless,  
but we have ignored their cry.

You take pity on the weak and the destitute,  
but our hearts are hard in the face of their need.

You heal the wounded and save the oppressed  
but we have placed our trust  
in the callous violence of war.

Forgive us, we pray.

Awaken in us sincere repentance  
that we may shine with the light of your saving grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

As the magi revealed Christ to the world, God's love is revealed in us by others who love us. Let yourself be loved. Let yourself be cared for. Let yourself break down and cry when you need to. Let others lift you up. Know God's love is in the words of assurance from friends, the listening ear, the shoulder to cry on. Know God's love is with you when you love one another and care for them as well. Know and believe this amazing good news:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

## Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

# Listening to the Word

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## Prayer for Illumination

*from Mark 1:10–11*

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God, and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup>*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup>They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup>Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

**Anthem** "The First Nowell"

## Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles. <sup>2</sup>You've heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God's grace, which God gave to me for you, right? <sup>3</sup>God showed me his secret plan in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (<sup>4</sup>when you read this, you'll understand my

insight into the secret plan about Christ). <sup>5</sup> Earlier generations didn't know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

<sup>8</sup> God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. <sup>9</sup> God sent me to reveal the secret plan that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. <sup>10</sup> God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. <sup>11</sup> This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

## Sermon

# Responding to the Word

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## Hymn

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

## Installation of Elders

### The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## Sharing our Prayers

### Blessing of the Epiphany Stars

*Star words may be obtained at the church office this week and next*

*Mon-Fri 8:30-12, 1-4:30 pm*

*Or call 606-678-5731 or email [fpcsomersetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsomersetoffice@gmail.com) to have one mailed to you.*

## Prayers of the People

