

# ΕΡΙΦΑΝΥ



# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2023

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**OPENING SENTENCES** *(based on Ephesians 3:7-8 & Matthew 2:11)*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

Leader: Tell the good news throughout the earth:

**People:** *the saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.*

Leader: Come and adore the Savior of the nations.

**People:** *We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.*

## WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The First Noel*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Keveren

### \*LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*Elder Stacey McAdams*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

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

**People:** *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

*(silent prayer)*

Leader: Let us pray. God of endless light, you sent a star – rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy.

**People:** *Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory;*

**Leader:** through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**People:** *One God, now and forever. Amen.*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE: 744** *Arise, Your Light is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Elder Stacey McAdams*

*Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. Amen.*

**\*HYMN: 145** *What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Elder Stacey McAdams*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 690)*

*Elder Stacey McAdams*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*John 1:1-14 (pg. 91-92)*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Stacey McAdams*

**Leader:** God of steadfast love, we thank you in this joyful Christmastide for all the blessings we enjoy: the shelter of home and the comfort of family and friends; the company of the faithful with whom we celebrate Christ's coming and for your love, which shines as a light in the darkness.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** God of mercy, in this holy season, there are people in need of your tender mercies: we pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering; for those whose sadness is made heavier by memories of Christmases past or by some present pain.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** We pray for those who do not have enough: enough food, enough money, enough companionship, enough hope. Because there is not yet peace on earth, we pray for those in harm's way. Protect them from war, violence, and cruel oppression.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

*(continued)*

*\*Congregation standing, if able*

Leader: God of hope, through long ages, you have given to your people dreams and a vision of the time when there will be no more war, no more pain or sorrow, no more death. We pray this day for the time to be fulfilled, when we will be reconciled to one another, to all creation, to you.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: Fill us with hope as we wait upon your coming realm. Give us the will to work for justice and peace and the courage to follow you into every place. We thank you for dreamers and visionaries who respond with imagination and joy to what you are doing in the church and in the world.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: As a new year dawns, we know that all our times are in your hand. We entrust ourselves and those we love to your care. In Christ's name we pray.

**People:** *Amen.*

**\*HYMN: 151** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

**\*BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

*(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)*

**POSTLUDE**

***We Three Kings***  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Wilhelmi

