

December 31, 2017 – 10:00 am

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**An Open and Affirming congregation  
where all are welcome**



**Our mission is to worship and serve God in our church,  
community and the world.**

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

Please respond with words in **bold print**.

\*Please stand if comfortably able

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## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: “Yuletide Greetings” Chester Nordman

**\*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Come, join the search for all God will reveal. We are the church, committed to an encounter with mystery.

**MANY: God has sent light to dispel our fears.**

**The glory of God has risen upon us.**

One: The gospel of Christ reveals God’s grace.

We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

**MANY: We gather together and lift up our eyes.**

**Our hearts thrill to the sight and our lips rejoice.**

One: Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known.

There is rich variety to meet each one where we are.

**MANY: The radiance of truth surrounds us.**

**Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “We Three Kings”** (on screen)

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**God beyond our knowing, grant us today new glimpses of who you are and what you intend for us to be. Our lives are**

**insignificant except as you enlist us to be a part of your**

**eternal purposes. You draw us irresistibly toward the light.**

**We are attracted to your revelation. We need the sense of**

**purpose you engender among us. Come, Holy Mystery, to**

**reveal as much of your truth as we can stretch to understand**

**and receive into our lives. Amen.**

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

\*GLORIA: #759

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,  
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: **Isaiah 60:1-6**  
Lay Liturgist (Pages 906 - 907 in pew Bibles)

A UNISON READING FROM PSALMS: **Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14**  
(On screen and page 719 in pew Bibles)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

\*GOSPEL LESSON: **Matthew 2:1-12**  
Angie Hausmann (Page 1170 in the Pew Bible)

This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON: Proclaiming the Word

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #148 **“What Child Is This?”**

PASTORAL PRAYER:  
Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: #812 **Three-Fold Amen**  
**Amen, Amen, A-men.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: “Two German Carols” Roger C. Wilson

\*DOXOLOGY: # 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**We reach for the boundless riches of Christ, even as we give our offerings. An abundance of things does not satisfy, and the wealth of nations cannot buy peace. Therefore, we join our efforts in the church to make a difference in the world, not through instruments of oppression but through the power of love. Employ our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN: #524 “This Little Light of Mine”

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

\*BENEDICTION:

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #125 refrain

**Glo-ria in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.**

THE BELLS RING AS WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, TO SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRIST TO ALL.

\*POSTLUDE: “Keep Christ in Christmas” James Moffatt