

January 6, 2019 – 10:00 am

# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



The Prophet Micah;  
“One will come who will  
shepherd my people”

## ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- COMMUNION LITURGY WRITTEN REV. THOM SCHUMAN
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- **\*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**

PRELUDE: **“Welcome to Our World”** Chris Rice  
**Flute – Stacie Pickens, Piano – Sharon Banjavcic**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.  
The glory of God has risen among us.

**MANY: We are awake; we are alive!**  
**Praise God for deliverance and blessings.**

One: Lift up your eyes to see all around you.  
Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

**MANY: May justice water the earth like a shower;**  
**Let righteousness and peace abound.**

One: Receive again the promises of the gospel.  
Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

**MANY: God’s ways are being revealed to us today.**  
**Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 164**  
**“Arise, Your Light is Come”**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:** (Written in 1994)  
The Epiphany season celebrates God’s inclusiveness.  
The mystery of Jesus Christ is revealed, not to an elite few; but to the whole world. Yet we continue to build barriers to protect our own interests and keep others at

a distance. If loyalty to God calls for accepting and embracing all God's children in love, we have much to confess.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own.**

**We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgments, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to yourself. Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.**

Moment for silent personal confession.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:** Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can come to Almighty God in boldness and confidence, assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit. Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God. Receive light and healing, for God has come to dwell in us and among us. Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant as we share the abundance of God's love.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**\*GLORIA: NCH 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**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Page 667**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**ANTHEM: “O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright”  
Philipp Nicolai Flute – Stacie, Organ - Sharon**

**SERMON: “A Different Road”**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: “As With Gladness Men of Old”  
Words on screen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with a time for silent  
personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed  
be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us**

**from evil. For Your's is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: Verse 3 "Away in a Manger"**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**INVITATION TO SHARE:**

**OFFERTORY: "Follow the Star" Howard Zettervall**

**\*DOXOLOGY: NCH 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:**

**For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor  
for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the  
world. With concern for those who are poor,  
oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as  
helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we  
commit our best, that the church may bear witness  
among the principalities and powers of this world.  
Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards. Amen.**

**\*HOLY COMMUNION: Words on the screen**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our  
Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this**

**holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"  
NCH 51**

**\*SENDING:**

Now, God sends us out by a different road.

**So we may find those who have been left  
by the side of the world.**

Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

**So we may serve those who are lonely and frightened.**

Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

**So we may take our sisters and brothers  
by the hand to walk in wonder and grace.**

Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

**Chorus of "Angels We Have Heard On High"  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**\*POSTLUDE: "Keep Christ in Christmas" James Moffatt**