

Sunday Worship- January 3, 2021



Those Who Dream...Persevere!

Epiphany

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*"Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service."*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Magi had a dream.

P: They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

L: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

P: They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

L: So may we be like the Magi,

P: May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen

~Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*HYMN #151 We Three Kings (verses 1-2, 5)

*1: We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*2: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]*

*5: Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]*

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

All: God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.

I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi.

I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Amen.

~Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Even in the darkness, God is there, offering empowering light.
Search for glimpses of light amidst the gloom;
seek the teachings of Jesus, which will light your way in the world;
trust God, and celebrate that you are made in God's image
this day and forevermore. Amen.

*RESPONSE #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verse 3)

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: In a world shrouded by darkness both tragic and willful,

P: We proclaim that our light has come. The glory of God shines upon us!

L: For One born of God is born of our own flesh, and that One is light for our lives.

P: As we receive the light and let it shine through us, it rises as a beacon for a darkened world.

L: The Peace of Christ, the Light of the World, be with you.

P: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12 (Common English Bible) – The Visit of the Magi

Reader 1: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. 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.”

Reader 2: When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said,

“In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*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.”*

Reader 1: Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. 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.”

Reader 2: 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. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. 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. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

P: Thanks be to God.

DISCOVERY TIME

REFLECTION *Those Who Dream...Persevere*

HYMN #150 As with Gladness Men of Old

*1: 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 God, may we
evermore be led to thee.*

*2: As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.*

*3: As they offered gifts most rare
at thy 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 heav’nly king.*

*4: Holy Jesus, ev’ry 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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: God's Light is most obvious when we hold out our hands to give and receive together. So let us give from God's Light within us and let us receive the blessings of God's Light from others. Let us pray together:

All: Like the Magi who came to offer their gifts to the baby Jesus, we offer our gifts to you, O Compassionate One. May our financial and spiritual gifts become expressions of our love.

With these gifts we give you the best we have to offer.

Use them to make your light of compassion and justice shine more brightly in the world and in us. Amen.

OFFERTORY DANCE PARTY!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Iona Community)

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said, "This is my body, broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me."

He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread.

He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup.

So take this bread and this cup.

In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

SHARING OF THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Iona Community)

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

*HYMN This Little Light of Mine

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*All over town, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE