

THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS

of
GOLD,
FRANKINCENSE,
and
MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Robert Powell

† Call to Worship

Ryan Whitman

Leader: The babe is born. Emmanuel. God is with us!

People: Let us worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Leader: The Magi searched earnestly for the Messiah.

People: We also seek Him with longing and humility.

Leader: Having been led by a star, they bowed before Him.

People: We, too, kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker.

Leader: They presented their gifts, the best they had to offer.

People: We come as well, giving our whole hearts in praise and worship.

Leader: O Come, let us adore Him.

All: O Come, let us adore Him. O Come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

† Hymn of Praise

#150

As with Gladness Men of Old

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 Lord, may we ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed.
There to bend the knee before Thee whom Heaven and Earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle 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 heavenly King.

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.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

God of us all, we have praised the holy life of Jesus as we celebrated His birth; but we have difficulty following the example of His life. We know we cannot equal Him. But we would like to be better at showing compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience and forgiveness. Forgive us when our living contradicts these qualities. Take possession of our hearts and transform our living by the presence of Your Son. In His name we pray. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#113 (Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2 times)

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1–6 (NRSV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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 in their nurses' arms. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **P:** **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 25 (tune: Winchester Old)

To You, O Lord I Lift My Soul

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul, in You, O God, I trust.
Let vanity be put to shame and languish in the dust.

Make me to know Your paths, O God, and lead me in Your way.
To learn such saving truth my heart shall meditate each day.

The Lord is goodness, truth and love, God's path the saints have trod.
And children of the covenant still walk beside their God.

Be mindful of Your mercy, Lord, Your love from ages past.
Forgive the weakness of my youth and bring me home at last.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 2:1–12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd My people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gift That Matters

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#151

We Three Kings

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.*

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

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
[Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold
tomb. [Refrain]

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

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We

believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: Backpack Ministry

† **Doxology**

#143 (4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **The Lord's Supper** ✠

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right...Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and sing Your eternal praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

...With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit.... Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(We will receive communion in our pews. Please eat the piece of bread individually and retain the cup until all have received it and we take it together.)

Prayer After Communion

✠ We Are Sent in God's Name ✠

† Hymn of Sending

#744

Arise, Your Light is Come

Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey.
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise your light is come! Fling wide the prison door.
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise your light is come! All you in sorrow born;
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Postlude

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Gordon Young

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Mitch Hall*

Liturgist: *Ryan Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 42

General Offering: \$1,803.00

Clean Start: \$99.73

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$20.00

Poinsettias: \$30.00

Online Offering: \$375.00

Total Offering: \$2,327.73

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

► Sunday, January 5

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Glen's Birthday Celebration, Noon

► Wednesday, January 8

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

► Thursday, January 9

Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.

Horizons Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.

New Start Date for Genesis Bible Study



We are glad to announce that our Bible study in Genesis, led by Pastor Bill, will start back up on **Sunday February 2, 2025 beginning at 5:30 p.m.** We will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall

for this study. We will also live stream the study on Facebook. Let's come together in the new year and study in His word.

Amy Crookes' mother's oil paintings will be temporarily displayed in the ACTC College Drive Campus Library following the Christmas break. Beginning January 6, 2025 these paintings will be on display for a limited time. See Bettie George with questions.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending January 2, 2025

Don Lilly

Family of Wilma Montgomery (Nanette's mother)

Family of Jarrett Tisdale (Betty George Frye's nephew)

Week ending December 26, 2024

Kathleen Filkins

Debbie Barnhart (Kelly Hanni)

Week ending December 19, 2024

Allyson Garnes (Pastor Bill & Nanette's great niece)

John Justice, Jr. (Jane Justice's stepson)

Greg Sanders (Pastor Bill's brother-in-law)

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Pastor Bill; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Dr. Matthew Lewis; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

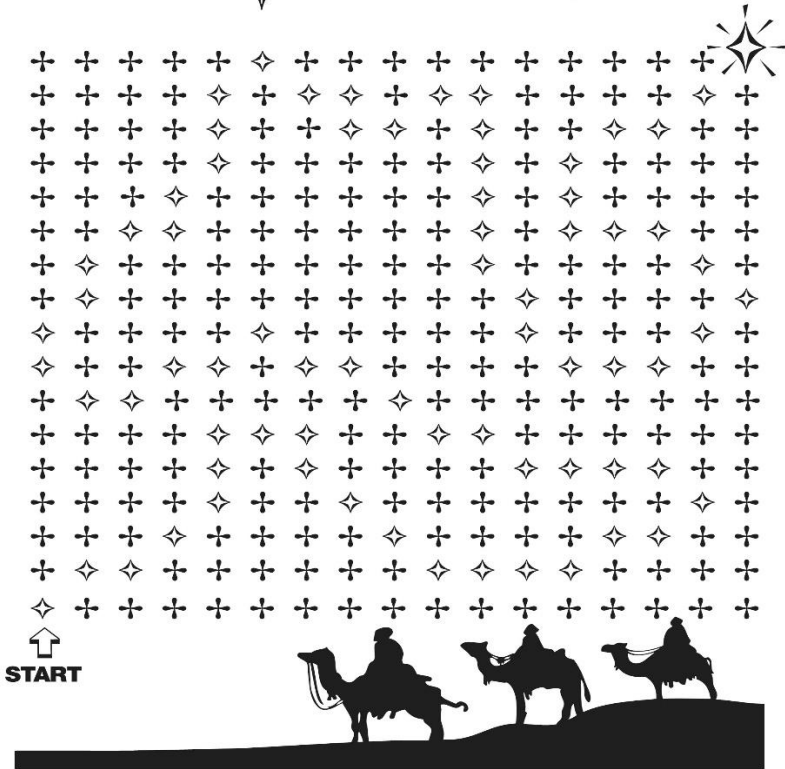
The Lantern: Carolyn Graber

Woodland Oaks: Bob Miller

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✨ path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

L D O G

N C A K N R I E N F S E

R Y H M R

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
	*2nd term of service	

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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