

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Epiphany Sunday
Rev. Rosemary McMahan
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

January 5, 2020
Elder B. J. Breeding, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "Adoration of the Magi" Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Welcome (Please sign the friendship roster.) Elder Breeding

Call to Worship

One: Darkness descended over the land, and the people lived in fear.

All: Then something unexpected happened, and it filled the people with surprise.

One: A star burned brightly in the heavens!

All: A star beyond imagining!

One: The darkness was vanished.

All: Though the night be dark and times are difficult, a new light now shines for us.

One: Fears are banished; failures are forgiven for God has heard our cries and has given us hope in Jesus Christ.

All: Come, let us celebrate God's light given to us!

One: Let us praise the God of hope and promise! Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship "What Star is This, with Beams So Bright" #152
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord of living light, we hear the story of the Magi once again and tie it together with our warm Christmas celebration. It feels comfortable and familiar to us. Break those bonds of comfort and ease and help us to realize the risk of witness and discipleship for those who follow your light. Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you. Shine brightly in us and through us. Give us vision, we pray, of what you would have us be and do in the Light of Your Love. Amen. (We make our silent confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness: Light has come to us. Christ's light has erased our darkness. Now we can walk and work in the light because we are forgiven, loved, and called to God's service.

All: We are renewed and restored by the love of the Christ Child. Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "In Communion with Me, You Are Loved" Choir

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 Elder Breeding

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 Rev. McMahan

Message "Magi Eyes" Rev. McMahan

*Hymn of Reflection "We Three Kings" Vs. 1 & 5 #151

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God from God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. This we believe.

Prayers of the People: The Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Offertory "Emmanuel" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation – The Great Thanksgiving – Words of Institution

Response ...and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:
***Holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are surely full of your glory.
The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it. Blessed is he who was born
that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.***

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion
***Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with
Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send
us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending	"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"	#543
*Blessing and Sending		Rev. McMahan
Postlude	"Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"	Dr. Gilbreath

*All that are able are invited to stand.

Bold italic type indicates our shared response.

To Our Visitors & Guests:

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of this congregation where everyone is welcome as God's child. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship or by email or phone. There is a place for you here, and we are delighted to have you with us today.

Please sign the attendance pad on the pew. If you are a first-time visitor, please complete all the applicable sections. Children's activity bags are available from an usher for the sermon time. Please leave the bag in the pew as you leave.

The visit of the Magi (Wisemen) to see the Christ-Child is recorded only in the Gospel of Matthew. There is no mention of the number of Magi who traveled to see him, only that three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—were presented to the Child, symbolic gifts fit for a king. Gold represented royalty; frankincense was a fragrance offered to deity; and myrrh was an oil used in embalming. After being in the presence of this Child, the Magi "went home by a different route," changed by their encounter. How are we being changed by our own encounters with Christ?



***“Growing in Faith; Sharing the Good News;
Living in God’s Love.”***

January 5, 2020

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Scripture Reading B. J. Breeding: Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: Matt. 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.' " Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.