



## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Second Sunday After Christmas

January 5, 2025 10:30 AM

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Arr. Diane Bish

*(\* Indicates all who are comfortably able may stand*

\*WORDS OF GATHERING (1)

One: God guides our journey,

**All: As Mary opened her heart to the child in her arms,**

One: As the magi opened their hearts to a journey of unknown proportions.

**All: May we throw open the doors of our hearts to welcome the joy and pain of life lived in the mysteries of faith.**

One: May our worship guide us, like the brightest star, closer to God, ourselves and one another.

\*GATHERING HYMN: "As With Gladness Those of Old" #159 *New Century Hymnal vv. 1-3*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;**

**As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;**

**So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,**

**There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;**

**So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,**

**So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy**

**All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)**

If we're honest, none of us got what we wanted this Christmas.

**Wars continue to rage, starvation threatens refugees, your creation is still under threat.**

We rarely stop to consider our part in the cycle.

**We confess we do not really give the gifts that would bring peace to Earth.**

But we trust in your forgiveness, and the gift of a new start in this new year.

*(silent confession)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Be still your hearts and listen! The magi followed nothing more than a question. Just like us, they had doubts and questions. Let it be known that even though we do not know what we seek, where we are headed or who we will encounter along the way,

**we serve a God who speaks peace, acceptance, and grace into and all around each one of us. Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: "As with Gladness Those of Old" v.4**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;**

**And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last**

**Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible pp.783-784

**SERMON**

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

**HYMN OF REFLECTION "The Magi Who to Bethlehem Did Go" #155 *New Century Hymnal***

*Sarah McCann, soprano*

**RESPONDING**

*We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

## NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational response (sung): “We Three Kings” refrain

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

### 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 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.**

OFFERTORY “Meditation in C” Cesar Franck  
(*A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.*)

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE “In the Bleak Midwinter” #128 *New Century Hymnal* verse 4  
**What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but what can I offer: all my heart.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Come, all who journey in faith: bring your lives, fragile and holy. There is a place for you here.  
**We come to this table, ready to see anew.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God of grace, from age to age you infuse every particle of the universe with wonder.

**From age to age you surround every form of life with love. From age to age you call to every corner of creation with promise.**

Some travelers once journeyed together beneath a fiery star to seek the treasure of their hearts. Kneeling in a stable they found the gift they sought.

**In this season, we also set out seeking signs of your presence and remembering how this child of Bethlehem broke bonds of oppression to pour out compassion for all.**

We remember a final meal. Where bread and cup were blessed and shared with new meaning: “Here is life. Here is promise. You are my beloved.”

**As we share this bread and cup may we open ourselves to the strength of this love. Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (*All are invited to share in the Lord’s Supper! Elements will be*

*served by ushers. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine cups. A tray of gluten-free wafers is available from usher in center aisle. Please hold the elements until all are served, so that we may commune together.)*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*unison*)

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have revealed yourself to us. Send us out into the world to see and bear witness to your revelation in all things, and invite all to come, taste and see your saving power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*COMMISSIONING HYMN:** "Jesus the Light of the World" #160 *New Century Hymnal*  
(*For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack*)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world;  
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.**

***Refrain:***

**We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,  
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Joyful, all you saints arise, Jesus, the light of the world  
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world. *Refrain***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus, the light of the world;  
Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus, the light of the world. *Refrain***

**Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world;  
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world. *Refrain***

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Meditation in C" Cesar Franck

## **SENDING**

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

---

Worship Endnotes:

1. Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, Iona Community, 2001
2. Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.  
Music reprinted by permission OneLicense A-722326

***Worship Leaders January 5, 2025***

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Church Council members

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

***Donate from your smart phone***

