

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**  
**January 3, 2021 Celebrating Epiphany**

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC                      "From a Distant Home"                      Puerto Rican Melody

OPENING SCRIPTURE                      Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

**People: The glory of the Lord will arise upon you, and appear over you.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around; see and be radiant; let your heart thrill and rejoice.

**People: The abundance of the nations shall be brought to you; from far away they shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.**

**BLUE HYMNAL #66                      "We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

*The Congregation will sing verses 1 and 5, as well as the refrains.*

**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 night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

Soloist Billy Stroud-Boutte:

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.**

**Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

Soloist Eric Mueller:

**3. Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising we are raising, Worshiping God Most High.**

**Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

Soloist Paul Francis:

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies.**

**Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, you sent a star to guide wise people to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

SILENT PRAYER, ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### † THE OFFERING

#### **BLUE HYMNAL #23**

#### **"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> '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.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

“Bearing Gifts”

Rev. Bryan Breault

MEDITATION

“O Come, Emmanuel; What Child Is This”

Juergen Tempel, cello

PASTORAL PRAYER

**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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine, or any substance that feels appropriate, or prayerfully take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically.*

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

**BLUE HYMNAL #63**

“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 Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.**
- 2. As they offered gifts most rare At that 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 heavenly King.**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

traditional English carol

† We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, [www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org), or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

**GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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