

The background of the entire image is a deep blue night sky filled with stars. A prominent, bright star with a lens flare effect is located in the upper right quadrant. In the lower half of the image, the silhouettes of three camels and their riders are shown against a lighter, pinkish-purple horizon, suggesting a desert landscape at dusk or dawn. The camels are walking from left to right across a sand dune.

*O star of wonder,  
star of night...*

*Guide us to thy  
perfect light.*

*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?  
We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.*

MATTHEW 2:2 (NIV)

## ***Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship!***

*To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!*

*\*Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.*

*(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

### WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

*Improvisation*

K. Friese

*Please use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God together.*

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

INTROIT

*Open To Me the Gates of Righteousness*

J.N. Beck

CALL TO WORSHIP

A star burns brightly; the shadows of the world have  
been dispersed in God's gift of Jesus.

**Arise! Shine! Our light has come;  
the glory of our God has risen upon us!**

Let us rejoice as we lift up our eyes to see God's  
light dwelling in our hearts and lives.

**Arise! Shine! Our light has come;  
filling us with faith, hope, joy, and love.**

The glory of the Lord shines upon us in majesty;  
revealing our Christ in this New Year.

**Arise! Shine! Our light has come;  
penetrating the darkness that covers the world.**

In the coming of the Christ, hearts are filled  
with the transforming power of God's love.  
**Arise! Shine! The glory of the Lord is born among us;  
let us worship God together!**

\*HYMN 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

## INVITATION TO THE CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY

### LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God, Alleluia!

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Alleluia!**

With joy let us pray to our Savior ...

your salvation may be known through all the earth.

**The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Savior and Lord, extend your church ...

for people of every race and tongue.

**The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Ruler of rulers, direct the work ... further peace and freedom for all.

**The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Master of all, support of the weak ... sustain the faith of the persecuted.

**The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.**

*Please take a moment of silence for personal prayer and reflection . . .*

Together, let all of God's people say ... **amen.**

HYMN 551 (Kyrie Eleison)

*Lord, Have Mercy*

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

### DECLARATION OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Leader: God acts with justice and mercy.

In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

People: **God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.**

**To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Hymn 132, verse 3 only)

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.*

***We Listen for God's Word***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 60:1-6, Old Testament p. 690 / P. 844

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*I Will Lift My Eyes*  
Sanctuary Choir

D. Nolan

**TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

*Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children are invited to come forward to the front pews.*

Congregational Invitation: *(Sung Twice)*

**This, this is where children belong,  
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
This is where children belong.**

*Church school is available for children preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

*All students will return to their families in time for our celebration of Communion.*

**SECOND LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12, New Testament p. 2 / P. 2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

***"The Gifts of the Wise"***

**\*HYMN 145**

*What Child Is This*

## *We Respond in Word and Deed*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR TIME AND TALENT

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*How Beautiful*  
Sanctuary Choir

T. Paris

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 606)

*Doxology*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

*All are invited to hold the bread and cup so that we may commune together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Sung to the tune of "Edelweiss"*

**Come, O Lord, be with us. Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.  
May our hearts, flow with peace. Come with your love and surround us.  
Friendship and love, may they bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever.  
Bless us now. Bless our friends. Bless all people forever.**

\*POSTLUDE *Hymn to Joy* G. Young

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THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor  
Elder Curt Abbott, Lector  
Ken Friese, Director of Music  
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

## **Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Old Testament, p. 690 / P. 844**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

### **New Testament, p. 2 / P. 2**

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**