

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you. All assemble and come to you, your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy, the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2: 1-12 New Living Translation

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men^[a] from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose,^[b] and we have come to worship him.”

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities^[c] of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’^[d]”

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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*May the light of the wondrous
star guide you always!*

Welcome to Zion's
Reformed Church.
We're glad you're here!

We welcome Rev. Glenn
Sadler who will lead
worship today. Thank you
for being here, Pastor
Glenn!

The Altar Flowers are
placed in memory of
Durwood and Nellie Foor,
by Virginia and Marvin
Meyers.

The Chancel Flowers are
placed in memory of E.O.
and Ina Davis, by the Baker
Family.

Ushering today are Anita
Powell, Julie Hills, Cynthia
Snyder, and John Enterline.

Serving Communion are
Julie Hills, Chris Stockner,
George Donner, Ron and
Betty Mink.



We welcome Lily Thomas
this morning as our guest
soloist. Lily is an 8th grade
honor student at St.
Michael's School in Green-
ville. She plays soccer,
serves as a mentor to the
younger students at
school, and recently was
awarded 2nd place for
Patriot's Pen with the
Greenville V.F.W. Lily has
studied piano with Miss
Lori for 5 years! She is the
daughter of Frank and
Shannon Thomas. Thank
you, Lily, for sharing your
gifts with us this morning.

**Large Print
Bulletins** are availa-
ble in the back of the sanc-
tuary.

Names & Characteristics of the Three Wise Men

Accounts have been told about the Three Wise Men
and they have been given names. This is how they are
often portrayed:

- **Gaspar (or Caspar)**, who wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.
- **Melchior**, who has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought to Jesus.
- **Balthazar**, who has a black beard and wears a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar represents the gift of Myrrh that was brought to Jesus.

Today we will collect the UCC Christmas Fund offering. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank you" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Please consider a gift for our active and retired UCC clergy who need our support by giving to the UCC Christmas Fund. Please mark "UCC Christmas" on your check or envelope.

218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

Parts

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a-bove the earth
 3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
 rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

January 2, 2022

Holy Communion

10:30

Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.

MEDITATION: "Faith is relentless. So relentless that even after being ignored all day long, it continues to give light through the darkness of the night. It's illumination when it can be seen in no way lessens the consistency of its illumination when it can't be seen. (Rev. Kenneth Samuel)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jodie Enterline, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

THE PRELUDE "Elevation on a Noel" Alexandre Guilmant/L. Smith

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Arise, People of God! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Star still beckons. We follow the Light that was before is now, and ever will be.

People: **We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.**

Leader: The Star still beckons. We seek the Light that is God's continuing gift.

People: **We live into the Light's new wisdom.**

Leader: We awake to the Light. In our world, emerging anew each day.

People: **We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light over Bethlehem's cradle.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***OPENING HYMN** "I Am The Light of the World"
(bulletin pages 8 & 9)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Holy One, as we come before you this day, please hear our confessions: Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness. We wonder if we are loveable. Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves. We regret that we have not kept our eyes on the one true light. We have not always let the light of Jesus shine through us to brighten the lives of others. Help us to remember that in Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us, and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***A SONG OF PRAISE** "Jesus We Worship You" (bulletin page 7)

~please be seated~

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

JUSTICE AND PEACE

star in the sky is gone, When the
heal the bro - ken soul with love, To re -
make the pow - er - ful care, To
dance at a ba - by's new birth, To

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
sing to the col - ors of the earth!

I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F *Unison Introduction* **B \flat** *Refrain* **C** **F**

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat **C** **F** **Gm** **Dm** **C**

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F **Gm7** **C** **B \flat** **F** **B \flat** **F** *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F **B \flat /D** **C** **F**

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 γ To find the lost and lone-ly one, γ to
 3 γ To free the pris-oner from all chains, γ to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, γ to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr. Jim Strathdee, 1969

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer O Lord. Hear our prayer O Lord
 Incline your ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"
 Lily Thomas, Ukulele and Vocals

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 (back of bulletin)
 Matthew 2: 1-12 (back of bulletin)

SERMON "Living in the Light" Rev. Glenn Sadler

OUR OFFERING TO GOD and THE UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING
 Offertory Music "Be All Right" Danny Gokey/Evan Craft
 *The Doxology
 *The Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this Holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "Go Tell It On The Mountain" (bulletin page 10)

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel"
Arr. by John Cumberland

***GATHERING SONG "Jesus, We Worship You"**

JOHN W. PETERSON Used by permission CCL#15046 JOHN W. PETERSON

Je - sus, we wor - ship You, Je - sus, we wor - ship You—

Like the an - cient wise - men we bow and wor - ship You;

Songs of praise we sing to You, Gifts of love we bring to You—

Je - sus, O Lord di-vine, we bow and wor - ship You.