#### 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<sup>[a]</sup> from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, <sup>[b]</sup> and we have come to worship him."

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

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities<sup>[c]</sup> of Judah, for a ruler will come from you

who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.' [d]"

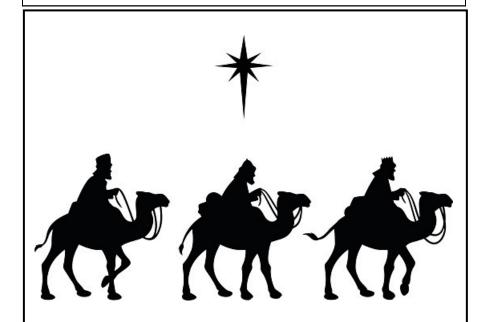
<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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

260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-588-6940 Church e-mail: info@zionsucc.org Pastor June e-mail: pastor@zionsucc.org Pastor June cell: 724-815-3570 Julie's cell: 724-815-3291



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 Greenville. 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 available in the back of the sanctuary.

### 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:

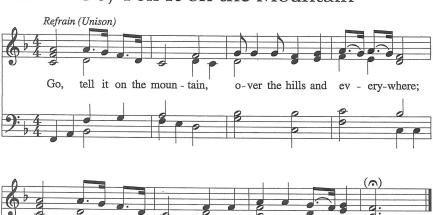
- Gaspar (or Caspar), who wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.
- Melchior, who has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought 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.

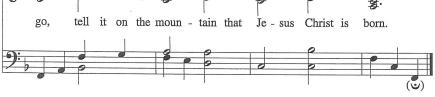
Today we will collect the UCC Christmas Fund offering. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank you" gift checks each December to our 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.

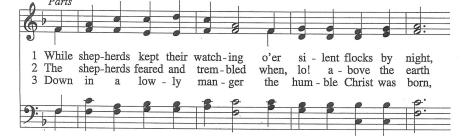
2

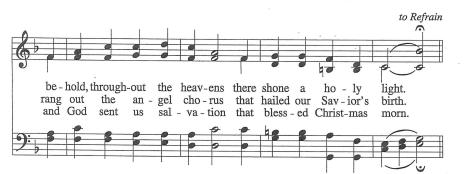
**CHRISTMAS** 

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain









#### 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

#### 584

## I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

John 8:12

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Refrain

Refrain

T am the light of the world!







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"

