

Matthew 2: 1-12 NLT

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. 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!" 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. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 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. 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

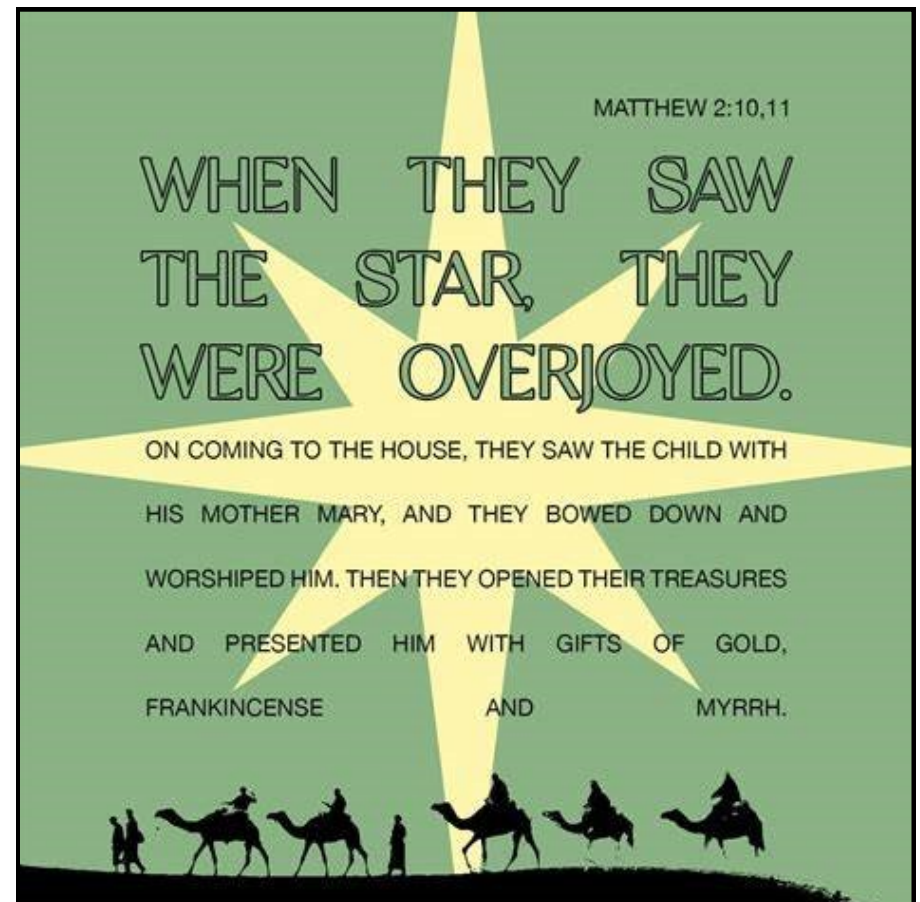
United Church of Christ

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Psalm 72:6

The Lord is like
SHOWERS
that water
the earth



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

We welcome Rev. Glenn Sadler to the pulpit. Thank you for being here!

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 Sherry Winner, Pat Seiple, Teri Swartzbeck and Vikki Young.

Serving Communion are Cynthia Snyder, Dan Douthett, Linda Allison, Carol Holler and John Enterline.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after Word for The Family for an activity.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy coffee and conversation in the Anderson Lounge after the service.

Large Print Bulletins and Children's Activity Books are available in the back of the sanctuary. Also, seat cushions and copies of the sermon. Please help yourself or ask an usher.

Psalm 72:1-14 NLT

Give your love of justice to the king, O God, and righteousness to the king's son. Help him judge your people in the right way; let the poor always be treated fairly. May the mountains yield prosperity for all, and may the hills be fruitful. Help him to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors. May they fear you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon remains in the sky. Yes, forever!

May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass, like the showers that water the earth. May all the godly flourish during his reign. May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more. May he reign from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. Desert nomads will bow before him; his enemies will fall before him in the dust. The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts. All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him.



The Alzheimer's Support Group meets in the Anderson Lounge the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00. The group is facilitated by Pastor Glenn Sadler and is open to the public.

Consistory meets Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00.

The Good Shepherd Center Executive Board meets Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00.

The Prayer Chain will meet Sunday, January 28 in the chapel.

The Good Shepherd Center request for January is

**PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE
SOUPS AND STEWS
CRACKERS**

Please place your donations in one of the barrels located in the front and rear lobbies of the church.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Glenn Sadler

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

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

January 7, 2024 10:30 a.m.

EPIPHANY

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Stockner, 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 LIGHT Kaleb Deeter, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

PRELUDE "Solfeggio in D Major" J.C.F. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Darkness is banished!

People: God's light has come to us!

Leader: The brightness of the Star leads us!

People: We come to celebrate God's abiding love!

Leader: Glory be to God in the Highest!

People: And on earth, peace forever. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 160 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives. Illumine us by your Word so we may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*A SONG OF PRAISE NO. 164 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

WORD FOR THE FAMILY

CHOIR ANTHEM "Noel Festival" Lloyd Larson

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 72:1-14 (bulletin page 7)
Matthew 2:1-12 (back of bulletin)

SERMON "Do You Get It?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "He Shall Feed His Flock", from Messiah Handel

*Doxology No. 780

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Harmony of the Angels" J. F. Burgmuller

