

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
The Second Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany Sunday

January 3, 2020

9:00 a.m.

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman, "The Work of Christmas," from The Mood of Christmas

PRE-SERVICE

Grace Notes

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

A Message from the United Church of Christ Wisconsin Conference

PRELUDE

Grace Notes

SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2, John 1:9, John 1:1-5

The Magi, the Wise Ones as of old, saw a star and followed.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

The Magi met King Herod, who was jealous and fearful of the One born to be king.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

The star went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the Child – the One born to be Savior – had been born.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

The Magi saw the Child and his mother and brought gifts of praise and honor. Then they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

Herod became angry and paranoid. He sent soldiers to kill the young children of Bethlehem, in hopes that he could eliminate any threat to his own power. Joseph and Mary took the young Jesus and fled to Egypt.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons. Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"What Child Is This"

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Hast, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by shadows. We wonder if we are loveable. Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices. Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace? We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

But 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; to courage and clarity; to grace and love and life. The scriptures promise that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.**

PSALM 2

Kenna Stodola

(Today's Psalm reading warns human leaders that, although they may have power over others, they need to rule with humility. We all need to remember that God is God, and we are not. Please pray with me...)

Why do the nations rant? Why do the peoples rave uselessly?

The earth's rulers take their stand; the leaders scheme together against the Lord and against God's anointed one.

"Come!" they say. "We will tear off their ropes and throw off their chains!"

The one who rules in heaven laughs; my Lord makes fun of them.

But then God speaks to them angrily; then God terrifies them with fury:

"I hereby appoint my king on Zion, my holy mountain!"

I will announce the Lord's decision:

God said to me, "You are my son, today I have become your father.

Just ask me, and I will make the nations your possession; the far corners of the earth will be your property.

You will smash them with an iron rod; you will shatter them like a pottery jar."

So kings, wise up! Be warned, you rulers of the earth!

Serve the Lord reverently—trembling, kiss God's feet or else God will become angry, and your way will be destroyed because God's anger ignites in an instant.

But all who take refuge in the Lord are truly happy!

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 60:1-6

(This reading from Isaiah comes from the time when the Israelites had returned from Exile in Babylon. They were back home in Israel, but the situation at home was not what they had hoped. Jerusalem, and the Temple, were still in ruins; their society was in disarray. God speaks through the Prophet to offer words of hope – a vision of a time when God would bring their community back together, uniting all the world in the Glory of God's Light. Listen.....)

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you.

Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon you;

God's glory will appear over you.

Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance.

Lift up your eyes and look all around: they are all gathered; they have come to you.

Your sons will come from far away, and your daughters on caregivers' hips.

Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will tremble and open wide, because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you; the nations' wealth will come to you.

Countless camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah.

They will all come from Sheba, carrying gold and incense, proclaiming the Lord's praises.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

THE LIGHT SHINES

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mary Did You Know?"

Todd Moolenaar

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

SERMON

RESPONSE

"Light Shines in the Darkness" *Olson & Peterson*

(refrain) Oh the light shines in the darkness, and the light will not be overcome
In this world broken and scattered, the light will not be overcome

As our lives are turning, and our hearts are yearning
through the days of hurting
deep in the night, still the flame burns bright. (refrain)

Tears throughout creation, torn apart relations
wounds across the nations
hope may seem gone, but the flame burns on. (refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

THE OFFERING

God, you call us to give as we have received. In this Christmas Season when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Vision, take these offerings of money and turn them into vision:
vision of all people fed, vision of all people safe, vision of all people housed, vision of all people educated. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Refrain)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Refrain)

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*Prayer of Invocation, Prayer of Confession, Call for Offering, and Offertory Prayer
adapted from UCC Worship Ways, a resource for churches from the United Church of Christ.*

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"We are a Christian Community Committed to Love, Service and Growth."

2801 Garfield Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241 (920) 553-1222

Website <http://www.graceucc.org>

Missionaries: Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles, Serving in Lesotho, Africa

Ministers: All the People of the Congregation
Pastor: Kim M. Henning
Associate Pastor: Colie Bettvia
Moderator: Betty Becker
Administrative Assistants: Debbie Augustine and Jean Schwalbe
Organist/Choir Director: Andrea Allington
Organist: Beverly Barnes Mark
Maintenance: Michael Timm
Sound Board: Bruce Suettinger
Worship Technology: Bill Heinsohn, Bob Randerson, Cal MacAuley
Song Leader: Fay Henning
Liturgist:

OUR SYMPATHY

Florence Luecker died on Tuesday, December 29. Flossy was a resident at Magnolia Meadows in Manitowoc. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

We extend our sympathy to Clare and Bob Schuette and their family as they grieve the death of Clare's brother, Wayne Junk. Wayne died on Wednesday December 23.

"INSPIRED" BY RACHEL HELD EVANS

Our Monday Adult Study Class **will meet tomorrow**, Monday, January 4th when we will study pp. 51-80 of Rachel Held Evans book, "Inspired" and pages 20-23 from her study guide. Contact khenning1956k@gmail.com if you would need a study book or if you would like to receive a Zoom link.

ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST: JANUARY 31

THANK YOU - TALENTED PEOPLE

Thank you to all of the musicians, sound and video technicians who made it possible to have full services filled with music of the season. We are so grateful for your time, talent and willingness to perform in new ways.

CONFIRMATION UPDATES

We have 18 youth in Confirmation this year. Class continues to meet in a "hybrid" style, with students (and their mentors!) able to join us in-person in the church sanctuary or online through Zoom at the same time. We are in the sanctuary from 6pm-6:50, then we spend the final 10 minutes outside the front door so we can see and talk directly to one another!

Our next class will be Wednesday, January 6.

Thank you to parents who are making this a priority, and thank you to our youth, who are engaged and thoughtful.

ADULT CHOIR RESUMES

Adult Choir will resume on Wednesday, January 6. This group is open to everyone. If you're interested in joining us on Wednesdays via zoom, please contact Andrea.

BELL CHOIR RESUMES

Bell Choir will resume on Monday, January 11 in the fellowship hall.

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

With your generous support, we were able to provide Ascend services with the gift cards they needed to support their clients this Christmas season. Thank you so much. Mission & Outreach

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS – IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

A qualified charitable distribution allows you to make a tax free donation from an IRA owned by an individual who is age 70 ½ or over. The distribution would need to be paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity such as the church. SO....

- If you are 70 ½ year or older
- If you have an IRA which you typically withdraw from to pay your pledge or personal expenses
- Talk with your financial advisor and they will provide you the form to withdraw from your IRA to pay your pledge or church donation directly to the church.
- It is Tax Free for both Federal and State Income Taxes.

PEOPLE WE WANT TO HOLD IN PRAYER....

Gene Krueger and Bob Stephens are residents at Hamilton Home/Northland Lodge. Ruth Hauboldt is a resident at River House Apartments. Lesley Huffer is at Rivers Bend, & Bruce Huffer is at his home. Marian Duescher is a resident at Harbor View. Florence Luecker is a resident at Magnolia Meadows. Jean Sutter is with her daughter, Heidi Bender: 880 S. Madison Ave. Pasadena, CA 91106. Nicole Kellner is a resident at Arborview Manor at 1520 Arboretum Drive, Apt. 1120, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Bill Monka is a resident at Tender Reflections. Bonnie Burmeister is living at 2790 Elm Tree Hill, Room 301, Howard, WI; Ginny Posny is a resident at Felician Village.

OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bracken Tadych (PFC4 107-1 Lilac Lane, Minot AFB, ND 58704); Jacob Hearley (5350 Berger Street, Stop 1330, Moody AFB GA 31699); MSgt Kevin Allie (PSC37, 19 Naomi Street Magnolie, DE 19962); Gavin and Emily LeGreve (1344 N Lafayette Avenue; Bremerton WA 98312); Hunter Hayes (Air Force, Tucson, AZ); Kaity Pietenpol (Pietenpol-Prueter, Kaitlynn, 4540 Carswell Ave Unit C-9 Nellis AFB NV 89191); Alec Dewane (PVT Dewane, Alec J. B Btry 2-6 ADA BN 2750 Miner Rd. Fort Sill OK 73503); Jimmi & Alex Anderson, 164B Lower Brick Rd., Fort Riley, KS 66442

Please notify the office of additions, changes or corrections to the above lists.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY today to Jordan Baeckman, Chris Bauknecht, Kevin Gulseth, Ava Nolan and Tammy Ricks and this week to Katelyn Klein, Addisyn Schanilec, Craig Rysticken, Ty Wichlacz, Jeff Jasper, Nancy Charles, Dane Moore, Arianna Nolan, Susan Crowley, Barbara Laurent, Max Onderbeke, Brian Van Ells, Aaron Schanilec and Sara Schuette. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** this week to Brian & Sandy Way.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Monday	Adult Study – “Inspired” (Zoom)	6:00pm
	Diaconate meeting (Zoom)	6:00pm
Wednesday	Confirmation class	6:00pm
	Adult choir (Zoom)	7:00pm

Saturday	Generation G (Zoom) Women of Grace	7:00pm 9:00am
-----------------	---------------------------------------	------------------