

# **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!!**

*“Enter to Worship, Exit to Serve”*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Regina Kontoes*

Leader: Let us pray!

**People: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

“The First Noel”(UMH #245)

1       The first Noel the angel did say  
          was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
          in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
          on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

2       They looked up and saw a star  
          shining in the east, beyond them far;  
          and to the earth it gave great light,  
          and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3       And by the light of that same star

three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

## **PRAYER TIME:**

### **Silent Prayer**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER WITH CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: receive our prayer:**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

For those who teach and learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace: **receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace: **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. Let peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace: **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Be with those who are alone or ill, or whose relationships are strained or severed. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace: **receive our prayer.**

## **Congregational Prayer Requests**

For your beloved ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace: **receive our prayer.** We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer (Together)**

**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 our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**FIRST READING**            Isaiah 60:1-3            *Regina Kontoes*

**SECOND READING**        Ephesians 3:1-12        *Regina Kontoes*

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL READING**        Matthew 2:1-12        *Rev. Louisa Klaven*

**SERMON**            "Drawn to the Light"        *Rev. Louisa Klaven*

**\*HYMN**    (*the offering will be taking during the hymn*)

"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" (*UMH #398*)

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2. As of old the apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,

turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these!"

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER (Together)**

**People: Generous Father, you sacrificed your son to show your love  
for us. Accept this offering as a token of our love for you and  
use it that your love may be known to all mankind. Amen.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*(Please see Communion Insert\*\*)*

**\*HYMN**

“Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Son” *(UMH #157)*

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,  
and endless praises crown his head;

his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring  
honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen!

**\*BENEDICTION**

The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. Amen.

*\* Please stand, for those who are able*

*\*\* Please leave insert on the table in the Narthex as you leave.*

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in Fellowship  
Hall.*

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship  
after the service in  
The Fellowship Hall.*