

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us in this sacrament. Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Go forth to shine with light of Christ’s love.
Go forth to shine with the glory of Christ’s grace.
Go forth to shine with the justice and peace of Christ’s life.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	‘Danish Amen’ <i>A-men, a-men, a – men.</i>	No 898
*RECESSIONAL HYMN	‘Go, Tell It on the Mountain’	No.251 (Refrain Only)
*POSTLUDE	‘Psalm 19’	Benetton Marcelo

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday



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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE	‘Voluntary in D major’	John Stanley
GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS		
GATHERING WORDS		

As we focus on the Light of the World, God’s vision of justice and love grows clearer and shines more brightly in our thoughts and actions.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

‘The First Noel’

No. 245

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ’s light is shining,
People: calling us to respond with joy.

HYMN

‘We Three Kings’
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

No. 254 (Refrain only)

Pastor: Christ’s light is shining,
People: calling us to worship and praise.

HYMN

‘We Three Kings’
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

No. 254 (Refrain only)

OPENING PRAYER

God of glory and grace, shine upon our worship with your presence. Shine in our hearts with your love. Shine in our lives with your grace that we may arise with confidence and go forth to bring your justice and love to all. Amen.

INTROIT

‘Angels from the Realms of Glory ’

No. 220 V. 3

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.**

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night when Jesus faced the darkness, he offered signs of light as he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
When the supper was over and Jesus prepared to face his darkest fears, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to his disciples, even those who would betray and reject him, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my life poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

With joy and gratitude, we break this bread, remembering the many times Jesus was revealed to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. In remembrance, we will take and eat this bread. With faith and hope, we take this cup, remembering Jesus’ gifts of grace and forgiveness, poured out for his disciples of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In remembrance, we will take and drink of this cup.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts, and your signs of light and life in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as signs of light and life, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be your light in the world. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may be filled with your glory and grace. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Sung)

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to your holy table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercy. We are not worthy even to gather the crumbs from under your table, but only say the word and we shall be healed.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE SURSUM CORDA

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In ancient days, you created us in your image to shine
like the sun as reflections of your glory.
When we hid from your glory, and the brilliance of your light within us dimmed,
you led us out of the garden and into the four corners of the earth.
From ancient times, through all the ages, you have saved us from the forces of darkness, and have
guided us with the light of your love.
From the bondage of slavery, you led us out of Egypt with a pillar of fire, and even now, your holy fire
of love leads us still. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise
your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.

SANCTUS

Holy are you and blessed is the Light of the World, Christ Jesus, whom kings from the Orient
worshiped after following his natal star to a household of love. Jesus shone with a light too wonderful
for the forces of darkness to endure. His ministry and teachings stand, even today, as beacons of
justice and righteousness in a world darkened by oppression and hate. Through Jesus’ humble
beginnings, you invite us to live simply, that others may simply live. through Christ’s patient love and
unfailing grace, your light shines on us with forgiveness and your grace blesses us with deliverance,
that as your redeemed children, we might shine your light in the world as signs of hope and love.

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears our minds, and our hearts.
People: that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.

CHORAL RESPONSE ‘Thy Word’ No. 601 (Refrain only)
“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

FIRST LESSON Isiah 60: 1-6
Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ‘Alleluia’ No. 186
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia”

Pastor: The Lord be with you,
People: and also with you.
Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ Matthew 2: 1-12

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE
Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON ‘Our Light Has Come!’ Pastor Russel Shuluga

HYMN “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow” Ira by Ira F. Stanphill
**I don't know about tomorrow, I just live for day to day;
I don't borrow from the sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said
And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what lies ahead**

Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know who holds my hand.

Ev'ry step is getting brighter As the golden stairs I climb;
Ev'ry burden's getting lighter, Ev'ry cloud is silver lined.
There the sun is always shining, There no tear will dim the eye;
At the ending of the rainbow, Where the mountains touch the sky.

Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know who holds my hand.

I don't know about tomorrow, It may bring me poverty;
But the one who feeds the sparrow, is the one who stands by me.
And the path that is my portion, May be through the flame or flood;
But His presence goes before me, And I'm covered with His blood.
Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know who holds my hand.

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION
May we prepare our hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Merciful God, grant us the grace to behold your glory
and offer us the assurance that your loving light will not burn us. Grant us the confidence that
we too can shine your light in our world. Remove the lampshades of fear and shame that hide
our light. Dust off the cobwebs of doubt and despair that shadow our light. Shine in and
through us, that your light may brighten our world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Here is the mystery: Grace is ours, no matter what. God's love is ours,
no matter what. Grace and love save us and shine in us. They allow us to shine as the light of the
world with the Light of the World. Amen.

HYMN OF ASURANCE 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' No. 230 V. 4

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we gaze on the lights of the Christmas season, may we remember the Light that draws near. Like
those wise travelers from the East, let us bring gifts and treasurers to honor Christ, the Light of the
World.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY 'Adagio' Samuel Sebastien Wesley

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Glorious God, bring glory to these gifts and to the offering we share with you and your
church. Bring the light of your justice and righteousness to the dark corners of our
world. Bring the glory of your love and compassion to heal our broken communities. Bring the
hope of generosity and gratitude to places in need of transformation. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Pastor: Follow the star to the table of grace.
People: Here we find gifts beyond price.
Pastor: Follow the star to the table of blessing.
People: Here we find strength for the journey.
Pastor: Follow the star to the table of peace.
People: Here we find rest and refreshment.
Pastor: Follow the star to the table of Christ.
People: Here we find light and love.