



EPIPHANY

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ JANUARY 3, 2021

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the presence of God, through whom all families on earth receive their life and their name.

People: We wish to be strengthened in our inner selves, that the Light of the World may shine in our hearts.

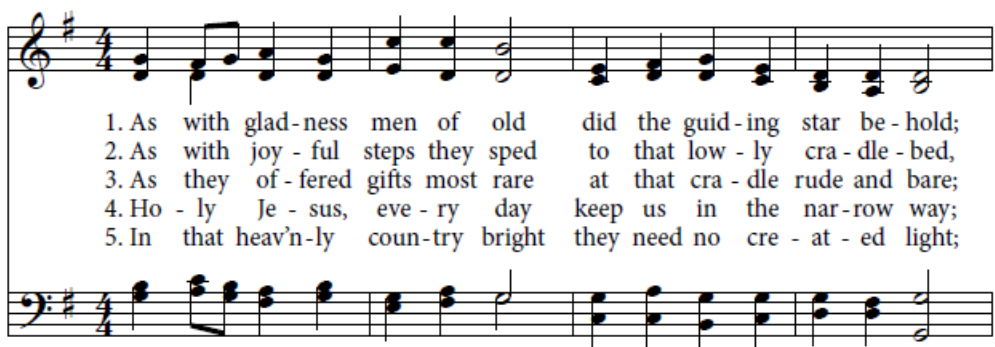
Leader: We seek to be rooted and grounded in God's love and in the love of Christ which surpasses understanding.

All: We come to worship and praise the source of true love and peace throughout the world. Glory be to God in the church and in Jesus Christ to all generations forever and ever!

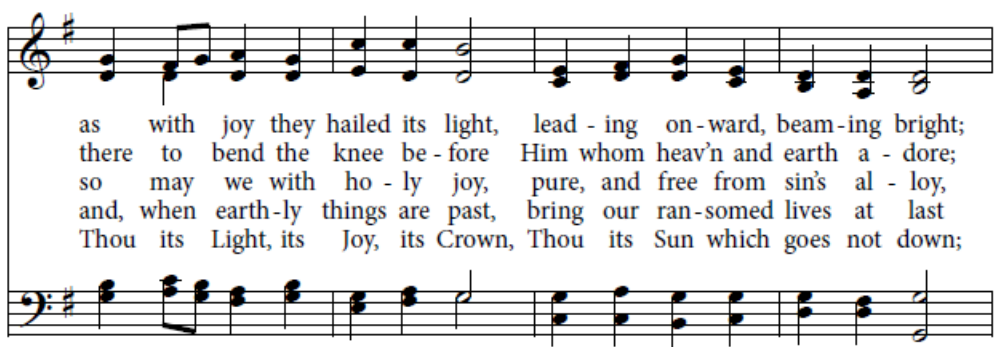
* INVOCATION

** Congregation stands*

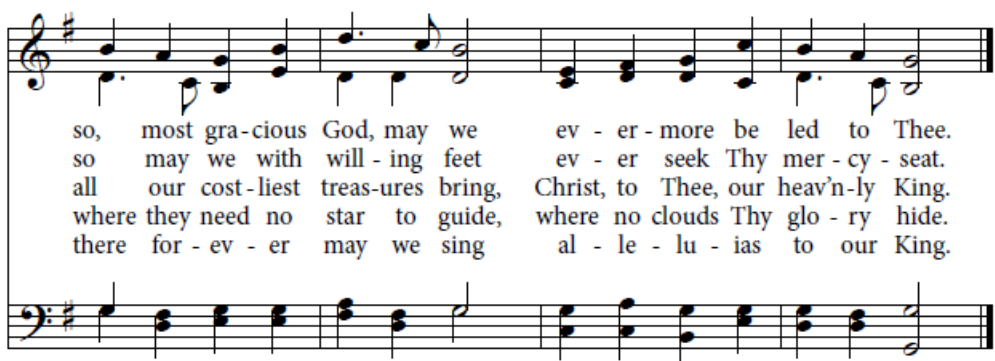
* OPENING HYMN: *As with Gladness, Men of Old* (verses 1,2, and 3)



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly cra-dle-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle rude and bare;
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, eve-ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
 5. In that heav'n-ly coun-try bright they need no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore Him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
 and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed lives at last
 Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious God, may we ev-er-more be led to Thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek Thy mer-cy-seat.
 all our cost-liest treas-ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
 there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

TEXT: William Dix, c. 1858

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
77.77.77

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

DAN BALZER

Leader: O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.

All: **We let ourselves become confused, are easily distracted, and lose our way.**

Leader: We fail to follow the signs you provide.

All: **Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we
may follow his way to you.**

from *The Worship Sourcebook*

SONG OF CONFESSION: *Father, We Have Sinned*

Townend/Getty

Musical score for the song "Father, We Have Sinned". The score is written in 3/4 time and G major. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Fa-ther, we have sinned in word, and deed, and thought: through ig-nor-ance, through weak-ness, through de-li-berate fault. We've sinned a-gainst our neigh-bors and a-gainst You, Lord. Yet we are tru-ly sorr-y, and we turn to You once more." The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, and 13.

Copyright © 2003 Thankyou Music

Used by permission, CCLI #294262

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God. And that is what we are!

* ACCLAMATION *(Please stand)*

All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We proclaim your wonderful deeds, O Lord Most High.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

MARY HOPPER

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Child of the Lowly Born*

KENT RICHTER

Seeking a king in Jerusalem
Where the crown of the Hebrews is worn,
Prophecy turns us to Bethlehem
And a child of the lowly born.

Seeking a king in a stable bare,
Born to hardship, oppression, and scorn,
Mystery hangs in the holy air
'Round the Child of the lowly born.

Who, who is this king, born in darkness,
heaven's own light?
Royal treasures we bring to a
Bethlehem barn in the night.
Yet we lay this gold before a child foretold
With a glory proclaimed in the sky:
"God on high!"
Angels sing. More than king, manger laid
Is the Child of the lowly born.

Seeking a king in humility,
With our own royal vanity torn,
Let us bow down, yield our sovereignty
To the Child of the lowly born.

[We three kings . . .]

Who, who is this king, King of glory,
sent from on high?
Sages labor to sing of Eternity coming to die.
For the Son draws breath on the way to death
To be savior of those who are poor. Evermore,
"Sinners cry, "God is nigh! Come to save
As the Child of the lowly born. "

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe,
the son of Mary.
Let us cast our crowns on the holy ground,
From the manger to Calvary's tree.
Lord is he!
Holy one, God's own son, Savior King,
Is the Child of the lowly born.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please stand for the reading of God's Word.)

READER: RENEE RICHTER

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. NIV

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *The Great Gift Exchange*

ALVA STEFFLER

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING SONG: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-ous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

™ © 1970 Celebration Used by permission, CCLI #294262

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Today

If you are in need of prayer, elder [Steve Westfall](mailto:steve.westfall@comcast.net) (steve.westfall@comcast.net or 630-717-7708) will be available to pray with you.

Thanks to our musicians: [Mary Hopper](#), [Kent Richter](#)

Use of printed music is licensed under CCLI #294262, OneLicense #704683, GIA #7835.

Thanks to our Livestream video crew: [Peter Welander](#), [John Economides](#)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

No Youth Group

This Week

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

COMING

Sunday, Jan. 10 **Adult Ed resumes**

Tuesday, Jan. 12 **Women's Bible Studies resume**

Sunday, Feb. 7 **Congregational Meeting** (2 pm on Zoom)

NOTES

NOTES

ELDERS

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Lew Luttrell,
Carl Pickard, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Gaby Sosa, Alva Steffler, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth*

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France,
Marc Johnson, Michael Kendrick, Harv Meyers, Tom Nguyen, Heather Reyes (chair), Jack Swanson*

STAFF

*George A. Garrison, Senior Pastor; Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life;
Alva Steffler, Minister of Congregational Care; Mary Hopper, Minister of Music;
Annika Durbin, Children's Minister; Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth;
Amber Johnson, Business Manager; Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton*

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29W260 Batavia Road

Warrenville, IL 60555

(630) 393-4400

www.immanuelpresbyterian.net

Immanuel is affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).