



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## VIRTUAL

Second Sunday after Christmas  
Epiphany/Holy Communion

January 2, 2022

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### MEDITATION

*Wise ones stand on tiptoes; those of us not so learned join them - and we let amazement cover us head to toe. How can God come as a child and how can a child be God? We stand amazed and wear awe as our garment. Be with us and let calm return to our homes after the magnificence of the Christmas eruption. Let the calm marry the amazement and make us new. Amen.*

Donna Schaper *On Tiptoes in Expectation*

PRELUDE: Chorale Prelude on "O Morning Star"  
John Finney, organist

*Johann Pachelbel*

### WELCOME

### INVOCATION

Gracious God, bless us in our seeking and on the road we have chosen.  
Light your way such  
that the-Herods of our world may be circumvented.  
Help us to bring gifts worthy of Christ.  
Then we too shall be known as wise ones.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright  
New Century Hymnal (black hymnal), #158

*Wie schön leuchtet*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As the glory of God shines around us, unfaithfulness is revealed.  
May our confession express our desire to change.

All: **God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed through life. Forgive us when like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives though the light of your Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*—silent confession—*

One: Stars by which God would lead us still shine. The grace of God still comes to us to forgive and accept. Be assured: the light of God shines in you and through you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## SUMMARY OF THE LAW

### GLORIA

*Gloria*

**Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12, *NSRV*

Reader: Frank Hays

*The adoration of the Magi foreshadows the adoration of Jesus by the church as service rather than privilege. The way of Christ is from the beginning concerned with the poor and the outcast.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Reader:** For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “The Guests Keep Coming”

Jill Edens

SOLO: The Three Kings

*Peter Cornelius*

Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Judy Swahnberg

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Toccata on “O Morning Star”

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

John Finney, organist

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## O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

*Isa. 60:19-20; Rom. 15:7-13*

Philipp Nicolai, 1598

*Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in  
2 Come heaven-ly Bright-ness, Light di-vine, and deep with-in my

truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low-ly! O Root of Jes-se,  
heart now shine, there make your-self an al-tar! Fill me with joy and

Prom-ised One, my God and Rul-er, you have won my heart to serve you  
strength to be your mem-ber, joined e-ter-nal-ly in love that can-not

sole-ly! You are ho-ly, great and glo-rious, all-vic-to-rious,  
fal-ter; Long-ing for you does pos-sess me; turn and bless me;

*This German chorale by Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai became so popular that its tune was chimed by church bells and its words engraved on pottery. It has been called "the queen of chorales."*

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7.8.8.7.4.8.4.8.  
Philipp Nicolai, 1598  
Harm. J. S. Bach, c. 1731