

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Mary Jessica Woodrum

Welcome

We Approach God

Call to Worship

From distant lands and faraway shores, God calls us to worship.

Along straight paths and cleared byways, God guides our journey.

Like a loving parent, God joyfully welcomes us home.

Praise the Lord, O people! Let us sing with gladness and worship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in the splendor of eternal light, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“We Three Kings”

Glory to God 151

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense cones a deity nigh; prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God Most High.

Myrrh is mine; its better perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! sounds through the earth and skies.

Call to Confession Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, your light shines throughout the earth, scattering the gloom. You make yourself known to all people and gather multitudes into the brightness of your dawn: the powerful and the wretched, the penniless and the wealthy, the children of faraway places and the children of this land. Yet sometimes we fail to welcome strangers into our midst. When we guard your blessing as if it were ours alone, forgive us. Expand our hearts and help us to draw the welcome circle wider until our community radiates your glory and grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, help us to receive the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all people—so that we may sing with the angels: glory to God in the highest heaven and peace among people on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1 – 7

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Moment with Young Disciples

New Testament Lesson Luke 2:1 – 23

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Journey by Starlight” The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed, 2.1 - 2.3

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn “The First Nowell” *Glory to God* 147

The first Nowell 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. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

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

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.

The 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.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Invitation to the Offering From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us offer our lives to the Lord and give our financial support to the mission of this church.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Jesus Christ your Son, you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year become an offering that is pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication "As with Gladness Men of Old" *Glory to God* 150

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson