

January 8, 2023

Epiphany Sunday

11 a.m.

Flowers Given By: **Max and Jim Althouse**, in honor of the birth of their grandson, **Merlin James Dude**, who was born on December 8, 2022 & **Nydia Muniz-Smith**, in loving memory of her husband, Robert Smith

PRELUDE

*Wie Schoen Leuchtet der Morgenstern
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*
Cynthia Roberts-Greene, guest organist

D. Buxdehude

INVITATION to WORSHIP

For Those Who Have Far to Travel

*OPENING HYMN

As with Gladness Those of Old

#159

As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore; So may we with willing feet every seek our mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare, So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

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

*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we continue to linger beholding and being held by the mystery and marvel of Christmas. On this Epiphany Sunday, we encounter the arrival of magi, the wise ones, who come with gifts. We wonder, what gift can we bring? How can our time, talent, and treasure be part of Your symphony, *especially* when the cacophony of the world keeps clamoring and claiming our attention? Open us to a prayer posture of being curious, like the ancient stargazers watching for signs in the sky. Like the Wise Ones, help us courageously to set out and search diligently. Like the Wise Ones, remind us that sometimes we must go home by a different road. Let there be an epiphany, *Aha* moments, that swirl us this day and every day in the coming year. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

I Am the Light of the World

#584

Refrain **“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!” If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home, the work of Christmas is begun: *Refrain*

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘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.’” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

Opening Our Treasures

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Brightest and Best

Paul Sjolund

HOLY COMMUNION

One: For the first time this year, we come to the table of grace and love;

Many: We come ready to receive the greatest treasure of God’s presence.

One: We come with openness to the mystery that a piece of bread and sip of juice can stir our souls.

Many: We come longing to soak in the sacred as the Wise Ones did centuries ago.

One: We come knowing that what we encounter *here* is needed out *there* in the world.

Many: We bask in the beauty of this moment, letting the truth here transform our lives.

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey; Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, Bind up the broken-hearted ones and
comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Dir ist Freude

J. S. Bach

In Thee is Gladness

Cynthia Roberts-Greene, guest organist