

January 9, 2022

Rev. Lydia Tembo

10:00 A.M.

Cantor of the Day: Nancy Smith

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

GATHERING MUSIC

The River is Here
It is Well with My Soul

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Chan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Richard Chan

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Leader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...

People: Who are we that you are mindful of us?

Leader: Creator of Heaven and Earth, thank You for creating us and loving
us in a way that knows no limits.

**People: We acknowledge You as Lord and praise You for all of
creation.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, we welcome You in this time of praise and worship.

**People: Please, Lord, shape us and mold us into the disciples of
Jesus Christ's light of the world that You are calling us to be.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Richard Chan

God of starlight, shine your love into the darkness of our lives.

Preoccupied with ourselves, we forget the needs of others;

we participate in systems that oppress;

we accept violence as a way of life;

we fail to respond to the cry of others.

May your love fall upon us like rain on the mown grass.

**May your love wash away our indifference and water the tender
shoots of our care and compassion.**

**Nourished in the sunlight of your love, may we grow into people
who live in righteousness and who work for justice for all your
children. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ, God has revealed the mystery that brings grace and forgiveness.

The light of God's love transforms us so that we may act with boldness and confidence.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Richard Chan

In the beginning when God created[a] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God[b] swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

***HYMN OF MEDITATION**

Baptized in Water

1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.

3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Lydia Tembo

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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

In the Beginning . . .

Rev. Lydia Tembo

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

Beautiful Savior
Nancy Smith, solo

* Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

You Are Mine

177 v. 1,2,3

1 "I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice;
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

Refrain:

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

2 "I am hope for all who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me. (Refrain)

3 "I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see;
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name. (Refrain)

* EPIPHANY PRAYER

Rev. Lydia Tembo

God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our light.

*CHORAL POSTLUDE

You Are Mine

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."