What Child…What Wondrous Gift!

January 3, 2021

**Greeting**

L: We come to follow Christ’s wondrous light!

**P: We bring the gift of ourselves to God’s presence.**

**Prelude** What Star Is This?, Setting by F. Ritter

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

* Becoming a Neighbor: Meaningful Community

Wednesdays 10:00 am & 7 pm, Jan 20-Feb 10

Daytime: [https://zoom.us/j/91080944329](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/91080944329&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3ZFoj9mrJq5FaaXyXoQyzv)

Evening: [https://zoom.us/j/99915630303](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/99915630303&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1CTHrqOyY-g-qWl1hrOzLR)

* Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk: Navigating Faith & Politics

Thursdays at 10:00 Jan 7th

<https://tinyurl.com/BibleStudyGraceLB>

**\*Invitation to Worship**

Leader: To our Abba who has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.
**People: We give praise and glory!**

Leader: To the Son through whom we have redemption,
forgiveness, and the riches of God’s grace.
**People: We give praise and glory!**

Leader: To the Spirit that seals us in Christ’s promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance until we possess it.
**People: We give praise and glory!**

**\*Opening Hymn** Hark! He Herald Angels Sing UMH #240

**\*Opening Prayer**

We know ourselves chosen, adopted as your children, O God. We dare to believe that you and I are part of a plan conceived before the foundation of the universe. But are we living as your children? Do we honor our inheritance? We know ourselves called, but we’re so easily distracted. We know ourselves loved, but we balk at the cost. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to live anew as we begin this time with hope. Enable us to be the people we know ourselves to be. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Special Music** The Coventry Carol

By Mark Hayes

Performed by Anna DeMichele

**Scripture Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, “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.” 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They 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.’ ”

7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then 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.” 9When 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. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On 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. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Response:**

L: The word of God for the people of God.

 **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Christmas Carol** O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH #230

**Message** What do we have to give?

**Weslyan Covenant Prayer**

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

**\*Response** We Three Kings UMH #254

**Holy Communion**

**Offering**

* *Offertory Sentence: God sent his only Son into the world to offer all the gift of salvation and grace. Having received God’s gracious gift, we give of ourselves and the blessings we celebrate.*
* *Offertory:* Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning, Setting by J. Leavitt
* *Doxology:* ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise, God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
* *Offertory Prayer: Gracious God whose gifts overflow and surround us each day. Bless these offerings of our faith that they may truly serve our neighbors and in serving them, honor you. Amen.*

**\*Closing Hymn** Go, Tell it on the Mountain UMH #251

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Joy to the World