

JANUARY 8, 2023
FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Epiphany Sunday



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FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2023

11:00 A.M.

*Please rise as you are able or in your hearts.

PRELUDE

“And There Was a Star”

David Paxton

WELCOME AND WORDS OF COMMUNITY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

People: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

Leader: The darkness that has invaded all of human life was banished by that star.

People: The darkness what surrounds us is gone!

Leader: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

People: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.

ALL: AMEN.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“We Three Kings”

UMH # 254, vs. 1-3

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Creed for Epiphany Season

I believe in God, the creator of the universe,
who spoke, “Let there be light!” and there was light,
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.
I believe in Jesus Christ, the light of the world
That shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot
overcome it.

He embodied humanity in the image of God.

In kindness, truthfulness, humility, and devotion,
He suffered for the greater good.
He was and is the Son of God.
He died on the cross for us,
God's saving grace!
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The guiding light of God in our world.
Through his Spirit, God penetrates and reveals
The darkness of human sin, helps people grow and
Become the people they are meant to be.
I believe in the power of transformation,
Through God's spirit and light,
Here in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" UMH # 70

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM "See That Star" Victor C. Johnson
soloist Jerry Gribler

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER CHORUS "Away in a Manger" UMH # 217, stanzas 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Lord, we confess that we have been wrapped up on our secular celebration of Christmas. We have thoroughly enjoyed the music, the food, the swirl of activities. We have looked happily at the Christmas lights and decorations, and yet we have chosen to ignore the people who are most in need of compassion and assistance during this time. We often feel overwhelmed by the demands on our resources and so we turn our "deaf ear" and look away. Open our hearts today, precious Lord, and help us hear the cries of those in need. Bring us to an understanding of active discipleship in which we work helping others

**and thus serving you. Heal us and give us courage and joy in your service.
For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF PETITION

After each petition, we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN OF PROCLAMATION** "The First Noel" UMH # 245, vs. 1-3

***SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 25:31-45 from the NRSVUE

SERMON *Why is it that God chose for Jesus to be born to a poor family?*
Rev. E. Neil Gaiser, OSL

OFFERTORY "Epiphany Road" Ben Logan

***DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH # 94

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***SENDING HYMN** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH # 251

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "March of the Kings" Robert W. Thygerson

ACTIVITIES - JANUARY 9 - JANUARY 15

Monday, January 9

Pantry 9:00 A.M

Wednesday, January 11

Renewal Hour 3:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 12

Chancel Choir 7:15 P.M.

Friday, January 13

Pantry 9:00 A.M.

Saturday, January 14

Legal Clinic &

Pantry 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 15

Adult Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Pastor

Rev. E.. Neil Gaiser, OSL

Administrative

Assistant

Carol McDougle

Director of Music

Carol Chatfield

Church Musician

Michele Delduca

Treasurer

Fred Poland

Audio Visual Technician

Roger Christian

Toddler Room

Attendant

Brooklyn Messer

Building Maintenance

Nelson Clair

TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

Worship Leader

Richard McBride

Greeter

Debbie Arnold

Trustee

Dave Puderbaugh

Toddler Room Assistant

Gerardine Shukuru

VAN DRIVER FOR JANUARY 15

Van Request:

Art -- 937-279-0650 To ride the van you must make your request the day before or you will not be picked up!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalms 40: 1-11 (UMH 774)

I Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1:29-42

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

The Children's Sunday School Teachers are informing the congregation they will be on hiatus in January 2023.

Attendance of children and youth during the Sunday School hour was zero for many months in 2022. This hiatus will provide time for the teachers to thoughtfully consider how to support this ministry.

CHILDCARE DURING WORSHIP

Childcare will continue to be provided during worship for children ages 3 - Kindergarten.

ALTAR GUILD HIGHLIGHTS ARTISTRY

The Altar Guild would like to highlight the wonderful artistry of Judy Golovcsenko, who created the 3 Kings artwork displayed on Epiphany Sundays since 2001!

MASK POLICY

Masking Recommended by the Trustees

Human Relations Day is next Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Send us YOUR questions for a chance to have them answered on air during this weekly series.

Email info@fairviewunitedmethodist.org

You can send us YOUR questions for a chance to have them answered on air during this weekly series. If you have questions about God, the Bible, church, theology, or life questions.....all of it is fair game! Send it our way!



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR GOD? (WE DO TOO!)

Join us beginning Jan. 8th - Feb. 5th for our winter sermon series

"Hello, God?! We've Got Questions!"

For the next five Sundays, inspired by some tough questions UMC children asked about God, we will go on a journey into a life of asking questions in the name of our faith. As we travel together, let us take some time to reflect on who we are, where we have been, and where God is calling us to go, as individuals and as faith communities.