

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
January 2, 2022 – 10:15 AM
Epiphany**

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Isaiah 60

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.

One: Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

All: They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor. (Ps. 34:18).

All: Source of salvation and Bringer of light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In him you have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care little for this planet, which you in goodness created for our habitation. In mercy forgive us, and help us to amend our ways.

One: God is righteous and just, and forgives the iniquity of all who repent. Like “rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth”. God’s goodwill overflows toward us in the Babe of Bethlehem. Through that child, who is our risen Lord, we plead for forgiveness and claim God’s mercy and assurance of pardon.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

GOSPEL: 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, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.'"

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

SERMON: "Wise Guys (and Dolls)"

Rev. James Mohr

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: