



Epiphany Sunday



January 1, 2023
Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen, Pastor
Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director

Centering Thoughts

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living...You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something. —Neil Gaiman

Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new. —Anonymous

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem of Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." —Matthew 2:1-2

The Magi experienced longing...They were all too familiar with, and weary of, the Herods of their own day. But there, in Bethlehem, was a promise of newness. —Pope Francis

I choose faith over anxiety, hope over worry, love over fear. —Mary Davis

Worship Notes: Unison responses are in bold type. An asterisk (*) shows where you may stand if you wish.

Welcome!

Prelude

Invitation to Worship

Gail Case

Creative God, through Jesus Christ you make all things new.

As we enter the New Year, we bring you our new plans and old fears, our new dreams and old problems.

Because you are a God of love, we know you forgive the mistakes of the past.

Because you are a God of hope, we trust you to create possibilities for the future. Amen.

***Hymn:** *We Three Kings*

UMH #254

Scripture:

Matthew 2:1-15

Message: "On the Move"

Pastor Lura

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (contemporary version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it also be made in heaven. Amen.**

Prayer

Pastor Lura

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Sing We Now of Christmas*

UMH #237

Prayer for Holy Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Holy God, in the beginning you called out, "Let there be light!" Just as your light of creation spread in response, so too does your light rise each day, offering us a new chance to make today a little brighter than yesterday. When we feel overcome or succumb to the dark night of our souls, you offer us a way back into the light of hope. And so we praise you, saying,

You are the Light. You are our God, piercing the dark night.

Blessed are the ones who shine their lights in your name!

A star appeared on a silent and holy night and brought with it your peace, joy, love, and hope in the form of a baby. This holy infant, tender and mild, was a sign of new life, a sign of holy vulnerability, a sign of your presence enfleshed in our human form. This would be the light that showed forth the truth that all humanity is beloved and called to care for each one as beloved. Jesus welcomed people and showed them their radiance. Jesus welcomes us and says, "This bread and this cup are my life and light for you. And because I shine in you, let your light shine for the world." And so we offer ourselves in union with Christ's offering of salvation as we proclaim:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts. Transform us into the Light of your Love for all and make us one in you and one with each other. Thanks and praise be to the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

Amen!

Song: *The First Noel/What Child is This*

Lonna Capaci, Chaundra Carter

& Eric McKirdy

UMH #220

***Hymn:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

***Closing Blessing**

Pastor Lura

As God guided the Magi and the Holy Family on their journeys, may God guide you in the New Year. Go into God's world, bearing the light of hope, peace and welcome to all you meet, both friends and strangers. Happy New Year!

Postlude



Announcements:

~ Welcome! If you are new to our congregation, please fill out the visitor form in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave.

~ Copies of the January issue of the church's newsletter, the Tower Notes, are on the table in the narthex.

~ The United Women of Faith meet on Wednesday, January 4, at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. All women are welcome.

~ Next Sunday, January 8, there will be coffee, tea and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The church Board meets at 11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

~ You can help people have clean, dry clothes during these cold, wet months by giving to Laundry Love. If you would like to donate, write a check to the church and note it is for "Laundry Love."

Contact Information:

Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen
lura@albanymethodist.org

Office: 541-928-3505

Cell: 503-269-1714

Office Manager: Rachel McKirdy
rachel@albanymethodist.org

Office: 541-928-3505

Church Website: albanymethodist.org

~ The church office is open Tue, Wed, Thur: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~

We Three Kings © Public Domain

Sing We Now of Christmas © 1928 Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense A-736674.

The First Noel/What Child is This © 2012 Early Service Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission under CCLI License #20462186 & 20462193.

Angels from the Realms of Glory © Public Domain