

# ***Mt. Zion United Church of Christ***

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Associate Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Secretary

First Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 & 10:30 AM

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion & Epiphany**

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

*If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary. We pray God's blessing upon you.*

*For today's service, we will be using the black hymnal.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Men and Kings Seek Him*

arr. Schram

### **CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

**People: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.**

Leader: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

**People: We live into the Light's new wisdom.**

Leader: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

**People: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem's cradle.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 254** (UM hymnal, see attached)

*We Three Kings*

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness. We wonder if we are loveable. Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

**ALL: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices. Which will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace? We are afraid to risk a step out into the unknown, unsure of the path.

**ALL: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: In Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us, and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness; to courage and to clarity.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### **ACT OF PRAISE NO. 159 (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 4)**

*As With Gladness Those of Old*

**ALL SING: As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last; where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

### **(10:30 AM) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **SCRIPTURE MESSAGE**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

#### **HYMN NO. 164 (black hymnal)**

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**OFFERTORY**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Welcome to Our World*

by Rice

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 165 (black hymnal, v. 3)

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

**ALL SING:** Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION

Leader: Like the star that guided and called the magi to an encounter with Jesus, God calls us now to the table to encounter Jesus for ourselves.

**People: Guided by the light of Christ we come to the table.**

Leader: At this table we encounter what we have all longed for and searched for – God’s never ending grace. In our searching it is not we who find, but rather it is God who finds us. This is God’s table, open to all who wish to know Christ better. All are welcome to eat and to drink here, and to be nourished by this holy meal.

**People: We are hungry people, living in a hungry world. We come to the table seeking Christ, longing for grace, hoping to be filled. In company with all who seek these things we share in the gift of life-giving bread.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: At Epiphany we acknowledge God’s very real presence on our journeys. God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: As the magi lifted their eyes to the star lift up your hearts, so that you find the blessed light of Christ to comfort and to guide you.

**People: We lift our hearts to God with hope and expectation.**

Leader: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all that you have made....In the presence of your Holy Spirit we offer ourselves to you, and we unite our voices with the entire body of the church in saying:

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**People:** Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty and light, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**ALL:** God of love and light, we give you thanks for refreshing us at your table, and for being present with us here at this holy meal. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, guide us into the places where you have called us, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 160**    *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*We Three Kings*

arr. Hopkins Jr.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We welcome infants and children in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance! If you receive Holy Communion today, please complete a communion card located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of our sound, video, and camera teams by the congregation.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in memory of Leon Hartman's 70th birthday by Carol Hartman.

The bulletins are presented in memory of my husband, John Beverly Day Skennonto, by Suzanne Skennonto.

Thank you to the Worship Choir for participating in the 10:30 AM service today.

We offer a hearing assistance system called *Listen Technologies*. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

8 AM Worship Tech: Mary Jane Snyder

8 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Drew & Danika Dallam; Matt & Emerson Grimes

8 AM Sound Tech: Jack Herlocker

8 AM Video Tech: George DeMers

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Tori Everhart

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

<sup>1</sup>The call to worship, prayer of confession, and assurance of pardon, were written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Copyright 2018 Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

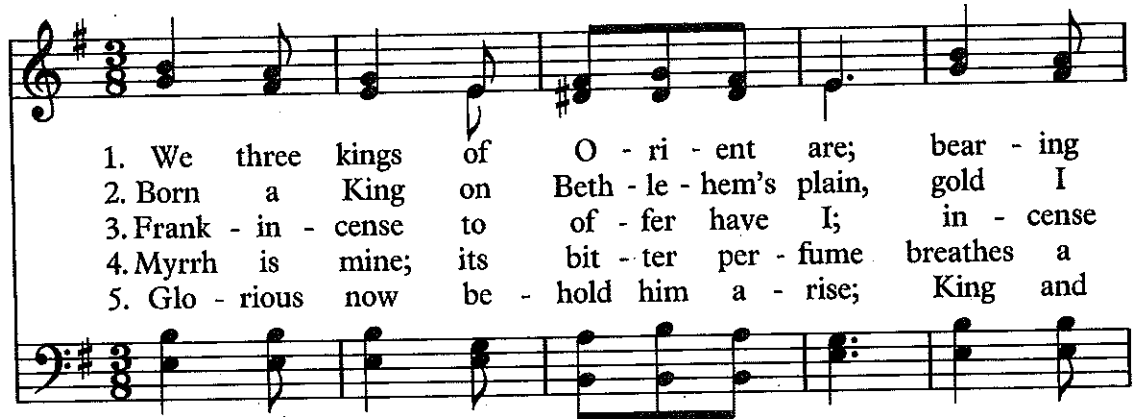
## Baptism of the Lord

Father in heaven,  
 at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan  
 you proclaimed him your beloved Son  
 and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.  
 Grant that all who are baptized into his name  
 may keep the covenant they have made,  
 and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior,  
 who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
 One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

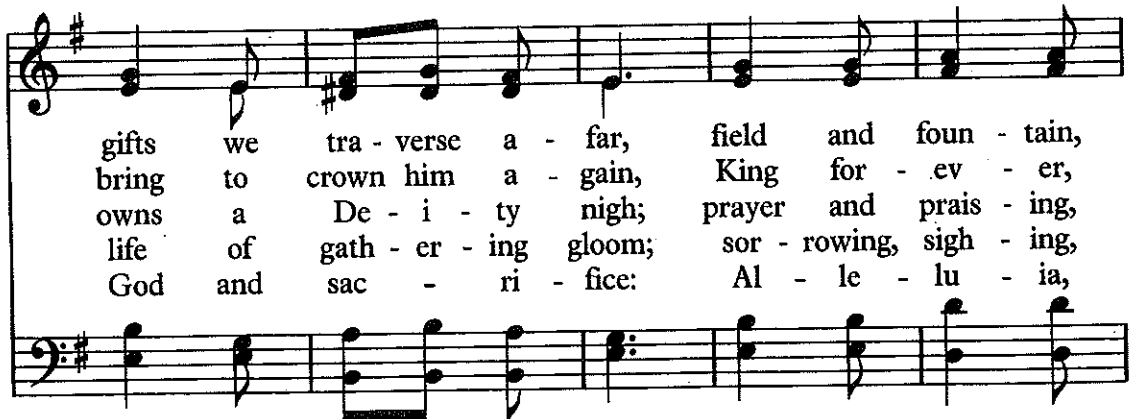
After *The Book of Common Prayer* (Mt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22)

## 254

## We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,  
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857 (Mt. 2:1-12)  
 MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

KINGS OF ORIENT  
 88.446 with Refrain

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

## Epiphany

255

O God,  
 you made of one blood all nations,  
 and, by a star in the East,  
 revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.  
 Enable us who know your presence with us  
 so to proclaim his unsearchable riches  
 that all may come to his light  
 and bow before the brightness of his rising,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 now and for ever. **Amen.**

Laurence Hull Stookey, USA, 20th Cent. (Mt. 2:1-12)

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BIRTH AND BAPTISM, *see further:*

190 Who Is He in Yonder Stall

## Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.*

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.  
*William Walter, 1872*



# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

*Refrain*

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by

day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 George D. Elderkin  
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993