



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JANUARY 7, 2024

PRELUDE “Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child!” (Larry Shackley)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise and awaken, children of God!

All: For our light has come, and the glory of the Holy One shines out!

Leader: Lift up your eyes! Look around you!

All: The people gather together – the people of all nations come together to worship God

Leader: You shall see and shall shine with God’s light

All: Let us rejoice and praise God, whose love shines forth into the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN “Arise, Your Light is Come!” (#231 vs. 1-4)

STORY OF THE MAGI Matthew 2:1-12

HYMN OF RESPONSE “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (#233 vs. 1-4)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, we are listening for your gracious Word, made flesh for us in Jesus Christ. Call us to come and see where he leads, and teach us to believe in his name. Help us to do as he tells us so our lives might be signs of his glory. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

MESSAGE From Change to Transformation:
“Do you remember Scrooge?”

OFFERING & OFFERING OF MUSIC “Go Tell it” (Jack Schrader)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of lords, you call us to come and see, and then to go and tell. So often we are looking the other way— away from your people in need, away from the things we would rather not see. So often our words are not of grace, justice, love, and peace, but rather words of hurt, exclusion, and fear. Forgive us for

praying for vision while holding our eyes closed. Forgive us for keeping silent, and for speaking our own desires rather than yours. Give us courage to witness your glory and testify to your good news. . Give us strength to follow you, wherever you might lead. Help us to follow in faith. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION MUSIC “Let Seekers of the Star’s True Light”
“Star of Wonder/It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (Sara Groves)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God of highest heaven, we give you thanks and praise for your steadfast faithfulness to us. You divide the chaos and call forth order. You appear in barren lives and call forth new life. You never give up on us, even when we seem to have given up on you. We continue to celebrate the gift of your beloved Son, given to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May he teach us your ways, call us to relationship with you, and send us out in loving service to all people. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “The First Noel” (#229 vs. 1,2,3,6)

BENEDICTION

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)

POSTLUDE “Toccata Festiva” (Franklin Ritter)

Preaching Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Worship
Director of Media
Organist/Ascconpanist
Audio
Streaming
Scripture reader
Ensemble

Geoff Kohler
Mofid Wasef
Elizabeth Virkler
Luke Graham
Ronél Wishnuff
Riley McKenna
Lee & Berdi Meehan
Frank Roberts
Chancel Choir

To Give:

