



The Journey Begins

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign & pass the red Friendship pad

~ OPENING PRAYER ~

LET US WORSHIP

Your Light Has Come (*Isaiah 60:1-6, all read the bold*)

*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 people;
**but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory 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 and come to you!***

*You shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice!
The wealth of the nations shall be brought to you.
**They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and proclaim the praise of the Lord!***

*HYMN 150 “AS WITH GLADNESS, MEN OF OLD”
(*stand in body or spirit & sing*)

**Share the Peace of Christ
Children’s Time with the Pastor*

Wycliffe
JANUARY 5, 2025

Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg, pastor
Rev. Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam, associate pastor

A TIME OF CONFESSION (all read the bold)



I wonder if the angels are disappointed looking over the earth, seeing how little progress we've made; after thousands of generations, still barbaric and hateful.

Perhaps they are more patient than most of us, or perhaps they do not think of time at all, but only see us as we are, each of us walking on our own roads, each with our burdens, each with our joys, while that great, deep music floats up out of us.

**In your mercy, Lord, forgive our shortcomings,
ease our burdens, release our joy.**

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE & PARDON . . . And all say: **Thanks be to God.**

"WHAT CHILD IS THIS?" (traditional English carol; Carson Ludford, guitar)

The Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12) ~ read as indicated

Leader: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking ~

Men: "Where is the child born King of the Jews? We observed his star and have come to pay him homage."

Leader: When Herod heard this, he was frightened. Calling the chief priests and scribes, he asked where the Messiah was to be born, and they told him ~

Women: In Bethlehem of Judea; as written by prophets.

Leader: Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned exactly when the star had appeared and said ~

Men: "Go search for the child; and when you find him, bring me word so that I may pay him homage."

Leader: They set out, and ahead of them went the star until it stopped where the child was, and they were overwhelmed with joy for there was the child with Mary, his mother. And they knelt down and paid him homage.

All: Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Giaquinto, 1760

“What Star is This?” (C. Coffin / D. Lantz)

Kirsty Barnett Green, violin; Amelia Moore & Beverly Parker, bells

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.
’Tis now fulfilled what God decreed ~*

The Word of God is Opened to Us
Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg



HYMN 314 “LONGING FOR LIGHT”
(remain seated & sing only v. 1 and 5)

The Pastor’s Prayer followed by **The Lord’s Prayer** (screen)

We Affirm Our Faith (all read the bold)

*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 brothers, and to make music from the heart.*

**As followers of Jesus Christ, son of God, creator of all things,
we embrace that same compassion and strength, guided by the Holy Spirit,
to make this world God’s kingdom in peace and love.**

***HYMN 151 “WE THREE KINGS”** (stand in body or spirit & sing; men on v. 2, 3, 4)

***BENEDICTION**

*Join us for coffee & conversation in the fellowship hall
(to the left as you leave the sanctuary)*

Giving is a natural overflow of a heart that is grateful for Jesus, who gave everything for us. A basket is available on the table as you leave the sanctuary for contributions of checks or cash. A secure link for electronic giving is available on the church's website at www.wycliffepresbyterian.org



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS - TOMORROW at 11:00am in the sanctuary! There is an ancient Irish custom of celebrating Epiphany as "Women's Christmas." Called 'Nollaig na mBan' in Irish, Women's Christmas began as a day when the women, who usually carried the domestic responsibilities all year, took the occasion to celebrate, leaving hearth & home to the men for a few hours. Whether your domestic commitments are many or few, this hour-long service offers an opportunity to step back from whatever has kept you busy in the past year to spend time in rest and reflection before entering the responsibilities of the new year. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served (beginning at 10:40am).



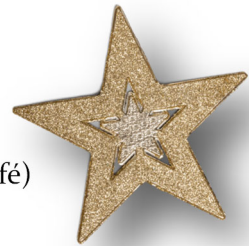
Upcoming Week: Jan 6 - Jan 11

MONDAY: WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS at 11 am (sanctuary)

TUESDAY: PASTOR'S LUNCH at 12:15 pm (Murphy's Irish Pub)

SATURDAY: MEN'S BREAKFAST & STUDY at 7:30 am (Sunrise Café)

SATURDAY: FIRST COMMUNION CLASS at 10 am (Wycliffe)



On the Horizon

January 15: Adult Small Group at 9:30 am (room 209)

January 16: Grief Support Group at 3:30 pm (room 207)

January 24: Kids Club from 5:30 to 7:30 pm (fellowship hall)

January 26: Youth Group Mission & Music Night at 5 pm (fellowship hall)



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