



# WHITEHOUSE UMC

...to love, serve, and share Christ

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
JANUARY 3, 2020—6:00 PM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

†EPIPHANY READING

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

†HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

*1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*3. No more let sin and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the cruse is found*

*2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*4. He rules with world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.*

"Joy to the World" - words by Isaac Watts; music arr. from G.F. Handel by Lowell Mason

CCLI #1550924

†AFFIRMATION

Christmas Affirmation

written by Nathan Nettleton

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.**

**Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,**

**a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth! Amen.**

## OFFERING MOMENT &amp; †DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" – words by Thomas Ken, adapt. By Gilbert H. Viera;

music from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, hamr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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## †HYMN

*We three kings of orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.  
skies.*

We Three Kings, vv. 1-2, 5

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.*

UMH 254

*Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

"We Three Kings" - words and music by John H. Hopkins, Jr.

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## †SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Waiting... with Simeon

Rev. Trey Burns

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with God and with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Bruce Power

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed.

Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily;

the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom;

the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it;

the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

Let us make our confession together,

**Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or wilfulness often choose darkness instead of light. Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.**

**Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us."**

**Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

written by Bruce Power

My friends, Epiphany is good news!

The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us.

Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.

In his name I declare to you: Yours sins are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving, and live without shame or anxiety.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us. Amen!**

#### †RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

UMH 70

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

"Glory be to the Father" – words *Lesser Doxology*; music by Charles Meineke

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#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

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#### 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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD & GIVING THE CUP

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,. Amen.**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	UMH 251
<i>Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.</i>		
<i>While shepherds kept their watching manger o'er silent flocks by night, born, behold throughout the heavens salvation there shone a holy light. morn.</i>	<i>The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.</i>	<i>Down in a lowly the humble Christ was and God sent us that blessed Christmas</i>

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" - words by John W. Work, Jr.; music Afro-American spiritual, adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith  
Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House CCLI #1550924

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



PRAYER LIST

The Weavers	The Loros	Michael Robinson	Michael Lavender
Sandra Walton	Brenda Caps	Betty Garner	Bert Gardner
Gaige Hendley	Lauren Lawler	Cindy North	Kelly Kea
Kristen Longfellow	Guy De LaMarter	Teresa Mitchum Hughes	Paul Rider
Janice Dupree	Joyce Bammes	The Lintners	Hannah Dintelman
Jason Krob	Luke Shaeffer	Gene Ruelle	Our Community
Ryan Baron	Bri Benoit	Carolyn & Patrick McClain	First Responders
The Wilkes	Harold Marshall	Bobbie Akers	Our Schools
Our Schools	Matt Lockwood	Members of our military	
Our Country	Our church family	Our elected officials	



ANNOUNCEMENTS

On January 6, we'll be taking down the Christmas decorations around the church. If you'd like to help, we'll be starting at 10:00am.

Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 6 at 5pm. For the next several weeks, we will be reading through the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John.

Youth Group will resume on January 6 at 6pm. If you know any youth who would like to attend, tell them to come on and join us!

Next Sunday is *Baptism of the Lord* Sunday. As in years past, we'll observe a renewal of baptismal vows during our service. Whether you wish to participate in the renewal or not, we hope you'll join us for this special service, online or in person.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will have its first meeting of 2021 on January 4 at 6:30pm. SPRC meetings are closed to the public; members will be able to participate in person or virtually—a Zoom link has been sent out to committee members.

The membership of this committee for 2021 consists of:

Class of 2021

Keith Schmidt  
Janet Weaver  
Adam Calhoun

Class of 2022

Marshall Neill  
David Dupree (Chair)  
Jenny Alexander

Class of 2023

Pat Lavender

+++++  
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