

# Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany January 7, 2024 Who is Wise?

**Preparing for Worship:** The visit of the Magi (Wise Ones) to the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, concludes the Christmas season, and opens up a new season called "Epiphany" (which means insight or revelation). Today's Gospel reading invites us to ask ourselves "What wisdom are we seeking? How far are we prepared to go in search of true wisdom? Is God one from whom we seeking wisdom and insight? How will we recognize the signs of God's presence among us?" Wise questions.

**Gathering Music** 

# We Approach God

Words of Welcome & Acknowledgment of the Land

Centering & Lighting the Christ Candle

In the name of God, grace and peace be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Wise Ones of old carefully observed the Heavens before beginning their journey across the Earth in search of God's Holy Child.

We, too, journey here, watching for signs of God's presence amongst us.

Wise Ones of every age are open to holy wisdom,

found in science, the arts, music, creation, and in one another.

We, too, gather, to watch for and share insight, wisdom, and guidance for the living of these days.

Welcome then, all who are seeking holy wisdom

for here God greets us in worship,

with the promise of wisdom, in Word, prayer, song, and dedication.

Let us worship, together, wherever we are, for God is indeed with us.

Opening Hymn The First Nowell

v. 1, 3, 4, 5 **VU 91** 

Prayer for Gathering and Reflection

We Listen for God's Word

Anthem O Magnum Mysterium\* Tomas Luis de Victoria

**Reading from Scripture** Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the witness of Scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon What is Wisdom? Who is Wise? Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones

**Hymn** Will You Come and See the Light v.1,2,4,5 **VU 96** 

### We Respond to God

#### **Sharing Star Words**

All on-site worshippers are offered a "Star Word" to be a guide and inspiration for the Epiphany Season. All online worshippers are also invited to request their unique Star Word via email.

#### Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure

Supporting CPU's ministries of caring and healing, compassion, justice seeking, and creation care, through our gifts of money, time, and talent.

**Song of Dedication** As with Gladness

v.1,3 VU 81

#### Prayers of the Community

Response: Holy One, hear our prayers, And in your love, answer.

The Lord's Prayer

# We Prepare to Serve God in the World

Closing Hymn I Am the Light of the World

**VU 87** 

#### Sending Out with Blessing

We follow stars, we people of God.

We hear the whisper of angels, and the wisdom of a baby's cries.

We wisely doubt the promises of those seeking to protect their privilege.

We trust instead in the gift of holy wisdom, made known in Jesus Christ.

We follow stars, we people of God, and we seek wisdom to follow the Way of Jesus.

God our Creator, guide us in the Way of the Son, strengthened by the power of God's Spirit.

Amen.

#### **Postlude**



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