



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, January 1, 2023

Happy New Year!

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude Auld Lang Syne
Solo by Logan Johnston on Tenor Sax
(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit (please stand)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (NC 133)

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shines forth, the everlasting light, The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep and angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth. And praises sing and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

Call to Worship

Psalm 72

Reader: Julie Ridl

One: May the kings of distant shores bring tribute to the royal son.

Many: May the kings of Sheba present him with gifts.

One: May the mountains bring prosperity to the people.

Many: And the hills bring the fruits of justice.

One: Defend the afflicted among the people.

Many: And save the children of the needy;

One: May the righteous flourish forever.

Many: And may prosperity abound till the moon is no more. Amen.

***Opening Hymn,**

I Am the Light of the World

(Black New Century Hymnal No.584)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Loving God, today we celebrate the Magi's visit to the manger. Just as the Magi sought the Christ child, let us seek to know the magnificence of the Divine within us. Help us to discover the abundant substance of Spirit readily available within us. Humble and still, let us awaken anew to the divine power within us. There is no greater epiphany than to know ourselves as expressions of the Divine. Claiming all that is revealed to us as children of God, we are filled with great joy. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Passing the Peace

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child (NC 136)

*Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, the child will bring,
listen to the angels sing.
Glory, glory glo-ry let the heavens ring. (Repeat)*

(repeat after verse)

Words of Integration & Guidance

Rev. Kaye Glennon

The story of the magi is greatly symbolic. From ancient times, the star has symbolized the presence of God as well as illumination and guidance. The magi were more than just astrologers; they were thought to have a special, mystical connection with God and to have “secret wisdom” not known to ordinary people. Plus the magi came from the east, so we know they were not Jews or Romans. They were Gentiles. Herod attempts to extinguish the light that threatens his “kingliness,” but he is thwarted by the wise magi who refuse to comply with his request to report the location of the child born “King of the Jews.” Put all of that together and we see that Matthew is making a spiritual and political statement and seeking to shift the dominant worldview. Jesus (not the Emperor) was the light coming into a world ruled by darkness and violence. He heralded the true kingdom of God (not Rome), one which brought peace to all people through justice, not victory. And Jesus came for all people, not just the Jews, for even wise magi from other nations recognized his light, and stand in solidarity with Jesus against the powers of darkness. This is the “truth” embedded deeply within the parable of the magi. And it still has power for us today. The light of Jesus still shines in the darkness, but there are Herods out there who would do anything to extinguish it to maintain their power and control. The question for us is: who are we in this parable? Are we the magi, illumined by the light, and refusing to aid in its suppression? Or are we like Herod, fearful of change, defensive of our status and power? Are we supporters of those who rule with intimidation, fear and violence, or supporters of those who rule with compassion, love and justice? The choice is ours.

Cosmic Praise

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 60:1-6

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Becoming Magi” **Rev. Salvatore Sapienza**

Offering & Offertory

Be the Candle. Be the Star.

Pamela Chappell

Composer: Pamela Chappell

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ the son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong." Let the poor say "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done. Give Thanks.

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is good to give God thanks & praise

***Creation's Praise** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (NC 125)

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains.*

*And the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains.*

Glo - - ria, in excelsis Deo,

Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (NC 131)

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heavens all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
For lo the days are hastening on, by prophets long foretold.
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song, which now the angels sing.*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Communion Song

A Christmas Blessing

by the Douglas UCC Holiday Choir

*At the end of the song, please join the choir
in singing "Silent Night"*

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

***Hymn of Sending**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
featuring Logan Johnston on Tenor Sax
(Black New Century Hymnal No.160)

Benediction

Postlude

Carol Medley
4-handed duet: **Peter Black and Adelle VanDaalen**

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F Unison Introduction

Refrain

"I am the light of the world!"

Bb C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F Gm7 C Bb F Bb F Last time, end

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F Bb/D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 To find the lost and lone-ly one, to
 3 To free the pris-oner from all chains, to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, to

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C Return to §

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

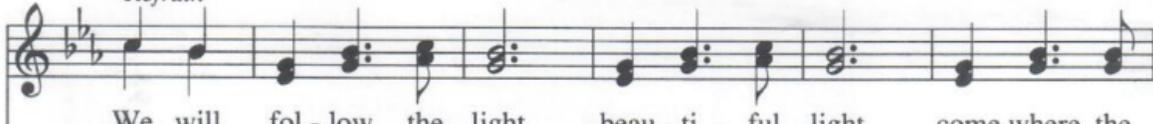
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.



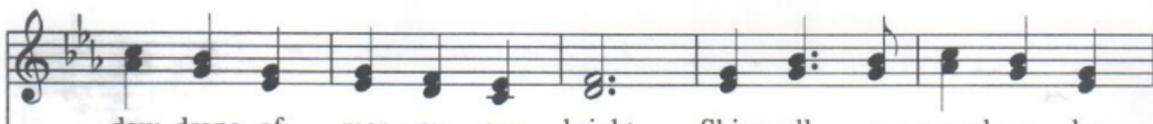
1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;



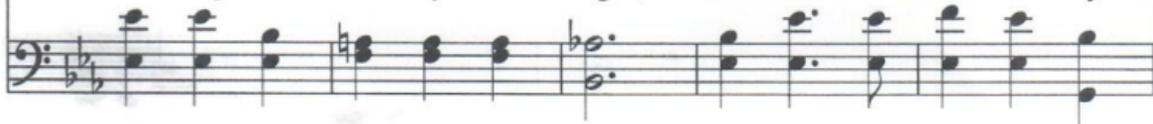
Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

*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.

