



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, January 2, 2022

**Second Sunday after Christmas
Epiphany Sunday**

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

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:

Prelude, *Behold! Rise Up!*, Peter Black

(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 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Black New Century Hymnal, 133)

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see you lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in they 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: Dan Mack

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 righteousness.

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 Epiphany, an observance of 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)

Words of Integration & Guidance by 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.

Journey of the Magi

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.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

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

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

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

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily "That Perfect Light," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory *"Jesus, the Light of the World"*
Stan Greene & Peter Black
Composer: Charles Wesley & George D. Elderkin

Star of Wonder

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!
Many: Alleluia!
One: O God,
Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *O Come All Ye Faithful (NC 135)*

*O Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the king of angels.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

***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*
(New Century Hymnal, 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)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

That Perfect Light

***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** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*
(Black New Century Hymnal No.154)
(Find Music at the End of this Program)

***Benediction**

Postlude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, Peter Black

Have a great week! 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

B \flat *C* *F*

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat *C* *F* *Gm* *Dm* *C*

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

F *Gm7* *C* *B \flat* *F* *B \flat* *F* *Last time, end*

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

F *B \flat /D* *C* *F*

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 *7* To find the lost and lone-ly one, *7* to
 3 *7* To free the pris-oner from all chains, *7* to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, *7* 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!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual
 Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

G D7 G

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

G Em C G/D D7 *Last time, end*
G

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

G D7 G

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G A7 D7 *to Refrain*

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.