

Worship Guide
January 3, 2021
Epiphany Sunday



Welcome

Opening prayer

**Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls,
you brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

**Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations;
through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star,
even Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

(Latin Sacramentary, 5th-7th CENT., ALT)

Hymn: Carol of the Epiphany

FWS 2094

**I sought him dress in finest clothes, where money talks and status grows;
but power and wealth he never chose: It seemed he lived in poverty.**

**I sought him in the safest place, remote from crime or cheap disgrace;
but safety never knew his face: It seemed he lived in jeopardy.**

Scripture readings: Isaiah 60: 1 - 6

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 peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear 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, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message: *Nine Miles Off*

Concerns and Prayers

Lord, listen to your children praying

Lord, send your Spirit in the place

Lord, listen to your children praying

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Offering - This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to Centenary UMC, PO Box 630, Skowhegan ME 04976 or to an organization in your community that makes a positive difference in people's lives.

You may also offer God something that's on your heart: joy, gratefulness, anxiety, or something else.

The Great Thanksgiving

And now with the confidence of children of God, we pray as Jesus taught, saying, **"Our Father..."**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Closing Hymn: Carol of the Epiphany

FWS 2094

**I sought him where the spotlights glare, where crowds collected and critics stare;
but no one knew his presence there: it seemed he lived in obscurity.**

**Then, in the streets, we heard the word that seemed, for all the world, absurd:
That those who could no gifts afford we're entertaining Christ the Lord.**

**And so, distinct from all we'd planned, among the poorest of the land,
we did what few might understand: We touched God in a baby's hand.**

Benediction