January 9, 2022 – 10:30am
Springfield Presbyterian Church
Virtual Order of Worship
Epiphany – Home By Another Way

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle
Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:
**People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**

Gathering of the People
Leader: The Lord be with you!
**People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]

Call to Worship
Leader: We come to this place,
**People: Each of us come on our own path.**
Leader: The path is winding,
**People: The path is not always clear,**
Leader: The path changes,
**People: But we are here.**
Leader: God is walking us home.
**People: What a gift it is to not walk alone.**
All: Let us worship Holy God.

\* Hymn We Three Kings of Orient Are – GtG151

Call to Confession
I imagine that, for the Magi, walking to Bethlehem was not easy. I imagine that following a star for navigation was definitely not easy. However, I imagine that the hardest part might have been not knowing where the road would lead. Friends, we are not always the best versions of ourselves when we are faced with uncertainty or changing plans. Facing the unknown pulls on every ounce of our anxiety and fear. It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our patience, our calm, our sense of perspective. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who is gracious beyond imagination and meets us on every twist and turn of the road home. So let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

Prayer of Confession

**God of changed plans, the Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Response:    Spirit of the Living God – GtG288

Words of Assurance
Leader: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news: No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God.
**People: Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

*Response:* Glory Be To The Father – GtG581

The Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!
**People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)

The Proclamation of the Word

*Prayer of Illumination*
Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs. You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it? Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, so we are listening. Gratefully we pray, amen.

*Scripture Lesson* Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[[a](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=da1c5eac1f&e=ea8fc2a60a)] from the East came to Jerusalem, **2**asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[[b](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=71cad6403b&e=ea8fc2a60a)] and have come to pay him homage.” **3**When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4**and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[[c](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=76266a2596&e=ea8fc2a60a)] was to be born. **5**They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6**‘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[[d](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=d28aebfcff&e=ea8fc2a60a)] my people Israel.’”
**7**Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[[e](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=3298c1a1ab&e=ea8fc2a60a)] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8**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.” **9**When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[[f](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=b12d66b887&e=ea8fc2a60a)] until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw that the star had stopped,[[g](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=41da11a982&e=ea8fc2a60a)] they were overwhelmed with joy. **11**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. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Meditation Home By Another Road

*The Response to the Word*

*\* Hymn*  What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright – GtG152

|  |
| --- |
| **THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST’S PEOPLE****INVITATION** [Luke 2:12; Mic. 5:4]Leader: A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.**People: He will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.** **GREAT THANKSGIVING**Leader: The Lord be with you.**People: And also with you.**Leader: Lift up your hearts.**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.** |

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to service you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way. In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Immanuel.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**IN PRAISE OF GOD**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility,
 He came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, He showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world. He brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, He welcomed all who sought him.
In his dying and rising, 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. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

**IN PRAISE OF CHRIST**

**PRAYER**
Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ’s presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us.
Give us the courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever, Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**
When Jesus was at table with his disciples, He took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and he gave it to them, saying: Take, eat, whenever you do this, remember me. In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me. Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection until he comes again.

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**
And so, with the communion that has been provided, we now come together in a spirit of prayer and eat this bread and drink this cup in remembrance of Christ, our Savior.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
**Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread** **and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn I Come With Joy – GtG 515

Charge and Benediction
Leader: As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick.
**People: Open your doors to others.**
Leader: Seek sanctuary.
**People: Be brave enough to go home by another way.**
Leader: And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.
**ALL: In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.**