

**A Service of the Word and Sacrament
for
Epiphany Sunday
January 8, 2023**
The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ

A Prayer for Epiphany

God of all heaven and earth,
From the breath of your love came the creation of the world.
We are amazed at the vast beauty of the night sky
and at the intimate nature of the love you have for us your children.
Be our daily star,
guiding our lives to search for your love for this world.
May we always follow your light of truth in all that we do,
forever trusting, hoping and believing in your word.
Lift our eyes to see your eternal life shining brightly,
leading us home. Amen.

Gathering Music

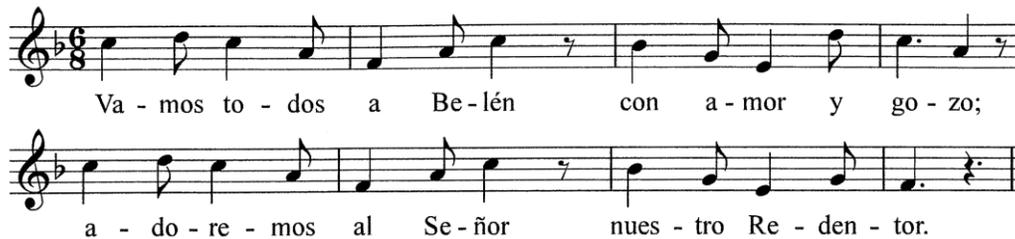
*Prelude in F# minor from Well-tempered Clavier BWV 883
We Three Kings of Orient Are*

J.S. Bach

*Introit

Vamos Todos a Belén (2x)
(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Northern New Mexico



Va - mos to - dos a Be - lén con a - mor y go - zo;
a - do - re - mos al Se - ñor nues - tro Re - den - tor.

Words of Welcome, Breathing in God's Gifts, and Sharing God's Peace

Regathering and Breathing in Again

As With Gladness

Dix

*As with gladness those of old, did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see!*

*As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

A Collect Prayer for Epiphany (unison)

O God, who by the shining of a star, guided wise ones to behold Jesus, our Savior, show us your heavenly light, and give us grace to follow it until we find that light and rejoice in it. Grant that as they presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we may now bring our offering of a loving heart, a hopeful spirit, and a courageous life. Amen.

Musical Call to Worship

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

trad. African American

The Call to Worship (congregation in bold)

For all that shall become, and for all that may be...

We give you thanks, O God.

For all that shall be known, and for all that shall remain a mystery...

For all there is to hear, and for all there is to see...

For hope, love, and the promise of peace...

Let us sing our praise to the God of yesterday and today, and the God of tomorrow.

¡Gracias a Dios!

¡Gracias a Dios!

¡Gracias a Dios!

¡Gracias a Dios!

*Hymn

126

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (1-3)
(After the hymn, children and younger youth are invited to the Epiphany Party! They return for "Star-Child.")

Regent Square

WE PREPARE

In a Prayer for Epiphany (printed at top of first page)

In a Time of Silent Prayer

In an Affirmation of Faith

*In a Song of Praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in God's temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

WE ENGAGE

El Viaje de Los Reyes Magos (The Journey of the Three Kings)

Mateo 2:1-12

In the time of *Rey Herodes*, after *Jesús* was born *en Belén* of Judea, *los reyes magos* from the East came to *Jerusalén*, asking, "¿Dónde está el niño who has been born *un rey*? For we observed *su estrella* at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When *Rey Herodes* heard this, he was frightened, and all *Jerusalén* with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where *el Mesías* was to be born. They told him, "En *Belén* of Judea...."

Then *Herodes*, secretly called for *los reyes magos* and learned from them the exact time when *la estrella* had appeared. Then he sent them *a Belén*, saying, "Go and search diligently for el niño; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard *el rey*, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went *la estrella* that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where *el niño* was. When they saw that *la estrella* had stopped, they were overwhelmed *con alegría*. On entering *la casa*, they saw *el niño* with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts *de oro, incienso y mirra*. And having been warned in a dream not to return *a Herodes*, they left for their own country *por otro camino* (by another road).

Carol

We Three Kings

Kings of Orient

*We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring, to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.* [Refrain]

(Choir) *Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all are raising, Worship Christ, God most high.* [Refrain]

*Glorious now behold Christ arise, King and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to the heav'ns replies.* [Refrain]

Sermon

Choose Something Like a Star

Silent Reflection

Musical Response

Rise, Shine!

Dale Wood

WE SHARE

The Community's Prayer and the Prayer of our Savior

As the Wise Ones of old followed the star:

Help us, O God, to follow the leading of your Spirit.

As they were led to the Savior:

Lead us, O God, to your Way, your Truth and your Life.

As they brought treasures to the Christ Child:

Empower us, O God, to bring your gifts of faith and hope and love to the world.

(silence)

As they fell down and worshipped the Child:
Inspire us, O God, to serve you every moment of our lives.
As Herod was kept from doing him harm:
Keep us, O God, from doing violence to your people or your creation.
As Mary kept all things and pondered them in her heart:
Enable us, O God, to remember and to love.
(silence)

As Joseph had the courage to trust your word in his life:
Give us, O God, the courage to trust you also.
As your Love shines forever as the Light of the world:
Shine forth in us, O God, that we may be light of our world in this time.
(silence)

Come, O Holy One,
Fill us now and always with your light.
Be our daily start and guide our feet in your path of life.
Help us find our way home to your true love and hope for all.

We pray in your name and the name of the Child of Bethlehem, Emmanuel,
who taught us to pray with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:
(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

WE GO IN PEACE

Commissioning and Connecting the Youth Initiate Mentors and the Initiates

*A Prayer of Blessing (unison)

Pour out your Spirit, O God, upon these Initiates that they might be awakened to new truth and venture safely into new life. Help them to live not for themselves alone, but for you and for this world that you love. Pour out that same Spirit upon their Mentors and all in this congregation. Give all of us the wisdom, patience, and courage we need to guide these young people and all children entrusted to our care in their journeys. May they know always that they are held in your care and in prayers of this community. Together may we live in your Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and ministry of the church, serving your world, and rejoicing in your presence in our lives. Amen.

*Hymn

Star Child

(music: Carlton Young, 1994; text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992)

- (All) *Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*
- (All) *Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*
- (Men) *Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*
- (Women) *Spared child, spoiled child, having wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*
- (All) *Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

Words and Music - ©1994 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. OneLicense.net #A-711427

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction

Kyrie Eleison (3x)

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH!

We're glad you're here!

For more information about United's ministries and offerings, please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org.

The Commissioning and Connecting of Youth Initiates and their Mentors

The Rite of Initiation to Adulthood is United Church's 2-year program for young adolescents as they navigate their way from childhood into adult life. Each Initiate is assigned an Adult Mentor who covenants to walk with them on this sacred journey. Please keep the following Initiates and Mentors, along with their families, in your prayers today and throughout the two years ahead:

Initiate

Bailey Gordon

Derek Darby

Weston Puglisi

Luke Rand

Sasha Smucker

Mentor

Char Cebell

Steve Hamilton

Bruce Cebell

Ben Larzelere

Louise Cavatta

Sharing Leadership in Worship Today Are . . .

Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Jessie Lo, /Pianist; Gabrielle Dietrich, Guest Conductor of the Sanctuary Choir; Kate Murphy, Youth Director; Sasha Smucker, Derek Darby, Weston Puglisi, Louise Cavatta, Liturgists and Scripture Readers; and Elijah Marquez, Media Coordinator.

Epiphany Party for Children and Younger Youth during 10:00 service

All children (and their friends) are invited to an Epiphany Party to decorate stars—like the one that led the Wise Ones to Bethlehem—and created crowns (like the ones *Los Tres Reyes* wore) and hear a story about the journey. All welcome! (And many thanks to Gail Ansheles, Caleb Omolo, and Maria Navarette for their leadership.)

***When We Look to the Stars* – 11:15 Adult Forum Today**

What better exploration on the day we remember the Wise Ones following the Star of Bethlehem than one focused on galaxies, stars, and the exploration of outer space? Join astrophysicist Ed Barker for a presentation on the Webb telescope that is opening up the heavens and finding new galaxies beyond our imaginings.

Youth Initiates meet in the Youth Room after worship to begin their unit on “Faith and Spirituality.”

COMING UP THIS WEEK. . .

Endowment Committee – Tuesday, 12:00 noon

They meet via Zoom with Consultant Jerry Henry to plan for this spring's campaign. (Frank Wilbanks, chair)

Congregational Care Meeting – Wednesday, 3:00 pm (John Shaffer, chair)

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 7:00 pm (Brad Ellingboe, Director)

Pretty Good Guys meet Wednesday 12:00 noon to make 100 Burritos for Santa Fe Shelters

All United men and friends invited to join in Burrito Rolling this Wednesday. United provides the ingredients and supplies. You offer the willing hands to help feed hungry people. Please let us know you're coming! (505-988-3295)

Resiliency and Hope: Biblical Stories for Our Time

Thursdays at 8:00 am – Zoom (please register at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

This ongoing study explore the stories of Biblical characters people who overcame hardships of all kinds. All welcome!

***Intro to United's Advocacy Day* --Next Sunday's Adult Forum (Jan. 15 – 11:15 pm)**

On Monday, January 30, United Church members and friends go to the State Legislature for United's “Advocacy Day.” Next Sunday's forum presents information on specific bills focused on four areas of our concerns as Christians: gun violence, housing and homelessness, immigration, and environmental concerns. All welcome! (And sign up for Advocacy Day at unitedchurchsf@gmail.com)

All-Church Game Night – Friday, Jan. 27 (6:30 to 8:30)

All Youth (Initiates, Junior/Seniors, Young Adventurers) and the rest of the congregation are invited to join in our first Game Night in four years! Lots of board games, card games, and fun! Masks required. Please RSVP to unitedchurchsf@gmail.com.