

The Falls Village Congregational Church

January 1, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude --

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

A new day has dawned, a new year begun

O Lord, call us so we may hear your voice

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

O Lord, keep us in your ways and on your path

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

O Lord, remind us that you lead us

O Lord, guide us as look to you, and worship you. Amen.

Prayer for God's Presence:

O Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer: As we begin this new year, may we use this time of worship to make us more joyful in our praise, more knowledgeable in our faith, more compassionate in our service, more intentional in our generosity, more eager in our witness to your love, more firm in our hope of eternal life. Amen.

Hymn #172 "We Three Kings"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you to confess our sins. We confess that we have turned the page in our calendar, but still haven't fully turned our hearts to you. Too often we seek fulfillment in human potential rather than in the peace, instruction, and the new life you offer. Forgive us, and empower us to enter this new year with increased intention to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9

Ruth Hadsell

Matthew 2:1-12

Ruth Hadsell

Prayer

Sermon: "Acknowledging God's Reign in a Messy World"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Musical Offertory –

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #170 "How Great Our Joy "

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

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You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

We Three Kings

All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 Opt. Solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 Opt. Solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 Opt. Solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; Christ and

1. gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2. bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 3. owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4. life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5. God and sac - ri - fice: al - le - lu - ia,

1. moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2. ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 3. voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 4. bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5. al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain (after 1 & 5 only)

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

*Scripture Lessons for January 1, 2023**ISAIAH 63:7-9*

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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 my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, lo, there ap- peared an
 2. Born is the Child, in man- ger small, whom God has sent to
 3. Go you this night, and you shall find the Sav- ior born for
 4. Je - sus, the gift from heav'n a - bove fills all our hearts with

an - gel bright:
 save us all. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 hu - man - kind. joy and love.

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Glo - ry to God who
 reigns on high! Glo - ry to God who reigns on high!

f *echo p* *f* *echo p*