

Good Morning!

North Bend Church

a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

FRANK'S TREE: Please make your final donations to light Frank's Tree. All gifts will be split between TRAM, our local food pantry, and Hope Restored India, Laura Meyers' ministry.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Labeled envelopes for those who wish to make offerings to the church are available now at the main entrance to the church. Others can be found in the pews.

BIBLE STUDY: Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume January 21, with a study of Romans. Sessions begin at 10 a.m.

BOARD MEETING: Our church board will have its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 21, to discuss church business. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

People: The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.

Leader: Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.

People: We, too, come to the stable, seeking the infant King.

Leader: Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.

People: God's Light of love is shining upon us. Amen.

***Singing**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

1. Angels from the

**realms of glory,
wing your flight
o'er all the earth;
ye who sang
creation's story
now proclaim
Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**2. Shepherds, in the
field abiding,
watching o'er your
flocks by night,
God with us
is now residing,
yonder shines
the infant light:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**3. Sages, leave
your contemplations,
brighter visions
beam afar;
seek the great
Desire of nations;
ye have seen
his natal star:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**4. Saints, before the
altar bending,**

**watching long
in hope and fear;
suddenly the
Lord, descending,
in his temple
shall appear:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

Loving God, who breaks through doubt and despair, be with us as we hear of the Wise Ones, who risked everything to follow a Star. Let us open our hearts to risk receiving the gift of gracious Love that you offer us in the form of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Blessing of Offerings

***Singing** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

**Praise God, from whom
all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures
here below;
praise him above,
ye heavenly host;
praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Reading the Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

- 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem
- 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
- 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and

teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

Searching

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Pardon

UMH p. 12

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(All pray in silent confession)

Leader to people:

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Everyone:

Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving UMH p. 13

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection 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.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and

said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving the Bread and the Cup

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

We Three Kings

UMH #254

(vs. 1, 2, 5)

**1. We three kings
of Orient are;
bearing gifts we
traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2. Born a King
on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring
to crown him again,
King forever,**

ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Refrain:

O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

4. Myrrh is mine;
its bitter perfume
breathes a life
of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain:

O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,

**westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

***Singing**

The Blessing

Kari Jobe

**The Lord bless you
and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
face toward you
And give you peace
Amen
Amen, Amen
Amen
Amen, Amen**

May His favor

be upon you

And a thousand generations

And your family

and your children

And their children,

and their children

Amen

Amen, Amen

Amen

Amen, Amen

¹From "Worship Connection: December 1, 2018," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com