

UNITE IN LOVE

Pre-service Music

Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship

One: The Magi had a dream.

ALL: They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

One: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

ALL: They journeyed to unknown places. They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

One: So may we be like the Magi,

ALL: May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn #611

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

all verses

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, we love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.
We love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.
We love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.
Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.
Now and again, the stars disappear.
Our feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.
On these days, forgive us for giving up quickly.
Forgive us for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.
We want to be as brave as the Magi.
We want to persevere.
Guide our feet. Show us the stars. Amen

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace

One: God’s love dries our tears; God’s forgiveness picks us up; God’s peace embraces us.
ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Response to Grace #582

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GROW IN FAITH

Time for Wonder *children are invited forward*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection on the Word

***The Word in Song**

“Once Long Ago”

all verses

Using tune for #686 (God of Our Life)

1. Once long ago, the wise men sought a king —
A little child.
They brought him gifts so they could honor him;
Perhaps he smiled!
How can we honor Christ with what we bring?
How can we now give presents to our king?

3. We seek you, Christ, and close at home we see
A child who's poor.
His family tries to pay for food and heat,
But both cost more.
Christ, can we honor you with what we bring?
Can deeds of mercy make you smile, our king?

2. We seek you, Christ, and far away we hear
A child's small cry.
She lives with war, with constant daily fear,
As loved ones die.
Christ, can we honor you with what we bring?
Can deeds for peace be gifts to you, our king?

4. As we love neighbors, Christ, we also show
Our love for you.
When we serve those we may not even know,
We serve you, too.
Now may we see what you would have us bring:
Our love for neighbors honors you, our king.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
Who came to this earth as a child,
Was born to unmarried teenage parents, And was quickly made a refugee.
We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,
See the poor, Dine with outcasts, Welcome foreigners,
Wash the feet of sinners, Offer second chances, And bless the children.
And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning. The dream does not end with a manger.
The dream ends with God's promised day.
So until all God's children are home,
We will follow the Magi's lead— Walking, seeking, and looking up.
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table & Star Words

The Great Thanksgiving

One: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

[celebrant continues]

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

One: The bread of heaven. **ALL: We are one in the bread we share.** *[all partake of the bread]*

One: The cup of salvation. **ALL: We are one in the cup we share.** *[all partake of the cup]*

Prayer

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Offering Invitation & Dedication

***Doxology 606**

Our Life Together

***Sending Hymn #744**

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

Blessing & Charge

Postlude