

Sunday, January 3, 2021



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Magi waited and watched with hope, knowing that something wondrous would happen.

P: We waited for the birth of Jesus with hope; now something wondrous is about to take root.

L: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

P: The darkness what surrounds us is gone!

L: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

P: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.

RELIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

L: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. *(Relight the first purple candle.)*

P: For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch, sprung up for David, shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

ALL: Come, again, Lord Jesus, come!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit, light within us your flame of life this day. Grant us openness to hear your message. Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more life in the midst of fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN We Three Kings (v. 1-4) Last two pages of this document

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Is Christmas Really Over?

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord’s Prayer “trespass”)

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:10-62:, Matthew 2:1-13

MESSAGE The Power of Wonder

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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 silence.

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: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere..*

*..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ..*

*..in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,..*

*.. all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

HYMN: We Three Kings (v. 5) Last two pages of this document

COMMISSION & BLESSING

BIBLE STUDY: Living the Celebration

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

- Notice the repetition of the phrases “in Christ,” “in him,” “through Jesus [Christ],” and “on Christ.” What do we learn about Christ from this passage?
- Notice that we have been “blessed” (v. 3). What do we learn about humanity from this passage? [We are chosen (v. 4) to be holy and blameless in love; we have been destined for adoption (v. 5); God’s grace has been freely bestowed on us (v. 6); we have been redeemed and received forgiveness (v. 7); we will know more fully the mysteries of God (v. 9); we have obtained an inheritance (v. 11); we have hope in Christ (v. 12); we are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit (v. 13).] Write down or print these phrases as a reminder of who you are. Refer to them at least daily over the coming week (or even throughout the year!).
- Which of these speak most deeply to you as you seek to live the celebration of the company who have come?
- How might you live in celebration of the hope we have in Christ this coming year?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all wisdom and truth, our minds cannot grasp the enormity of your love. As we begin this new calendar year, help us to live into the calling you have given us. Enable us to embrace the hope that comes through Jesus Christ that others might know your love. Amen.

Theresa M. Heiser, Pastor | Office: 814-883-9510 | theiser@susumc.org

CCLI #1671542 Several elements of today's worship are from MinistryMatters.com, Sermons for Kids, FreeBibleImages.com, the United Methodist Book of Worship and The Abingdon Worship Annual.

We Three Kings

Em Em B⁷ Em Em Em

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

B⁷ Em Em D G G D G

7
 tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,
 crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er,
 De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing,
 gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
 sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

We Three Kings

13 *Am* *Em/B* *B⁷* *Em* *Refrain* *D* *D⁷* *G*

fol - low - ing yon - der star.
o - ver us all to reign.
wor - ship - ing God on high. O star of
sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
sounds through the earth and skies.

20 *G* *C* *G* *G* *G* *C* *G* *Em*

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

28 *D* *G* *C* *G* *D* *G* *G* *G* *C* *G*

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