

UNIVERSITY CHURCH  
Worship Service  
January 4, 2009

THE FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY

PRELUDE: Coventry Carol

Jean Newcomer, piano

arr. by Lani Smith

WELCOME

INVITATIONS TO MINISTRY

**Please sign and pass the clipboards to your neighbor.  
(\*Indicates when those who are able may stand.)**

\* HYMN: Go Tell It On the Mountain

Hymnal #154

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
**And the glory of God has risen upon you.**  
For shadows shall cover the earth,  
**And thick gloom the peoples;**  
But the Light of Heaven will rise upon you,  
**God's glory will appear over you.**  
Nations shall come to your light,  
**And monarchs to the brightness of your dawn.**  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
**And shall proclaim the praise of the Sovereign.**

(Isaiah 60:1-3, 6)

OPENING PRAYER (The pastor and people together)

**The light of Epiphany breaks upon us, O God. We heard the song of the angels, bidding us to live in peace with the whole human family. With the Magi, we lay gifts beside the infant Savior. Their value is established not by our giving but by His receiving. We praise God for the Word made flesh, by whom we come to know who we are and whose we are. Amen.**

GATHERING OF FOOD: Take My Gifts

Hymnal #562

(Contributions are shared between the Interfaith Council's Food Pantry, the Food for Life program at First Presbyterian Church and the AIDS food program: Vital Bridges)

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**(Response to a joyful prayer: Thanks be to you, O God.)**

**(Response to a prayer of concern: Hear our prayer, O God)**

THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**O God, we live not by deserving, but by Your grace. We affirm to ourselves and announce to the world that in Christ You make a gift of restorative love that we do not deserve and cannot earn. Through that love our lives are cleansed and renewed. Praise be to Thee. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Christmas Medley Congregation and Choir

Adeste Fideles (vs. 1 in Latin followed by vs. 1 in English)

Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1 & 2)

Hymnal #134

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 & 2)

Hymnal #133

Joy to the World (vs. 1 & 2)

Hymnal #132

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Greta Holmes, Liturgist

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

**(Children in kindergarten and up are invited to go at this time to Junior Church in the library.)**

\*HYMN: As With Gladness Those of Old

Hymnal #159

THE SERMON: "The Meanest Man In the World"

Eugene H. Winkler

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**The basis of faith is desire. The beginning of faith is commitment.**

**The heartbeat of faith is trust. The privilege of faith is sharing.**

**The beauty of faith is acceptance. The hope of faith is belief in God.**

**The joy of faith is the peace of God. The reward of faith is the presence of God.**

**The focus of faith is the Son of God. With all diligence, therefore,**

**We will keep the faith, By which we are kept. Amen.**

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS

Call to Give

Offertory: Love Came Down at Christmas

Hymnal #165

**(Please bring your gifts to the table.)**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

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SHARING THE SACRAMENT

THE PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

\*HYMN: Amen, Amen

Hymnal #161

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE: The Lord Bless You

Rev. Peter Scholtes

**The Lord bless you and keep you,  
And make his face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you,  
And give you peace.  
The Lord bless you and keep you,  
And make her face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you,  
And give you peace, and give you peace**

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell