



Sunday, January 4, 2026  
Second Sunday after Christmas

# ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

## Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 95:3-7a

For the Lord is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;  
for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.

## Prelude

*Allegro moderato* from Concerto no. 1 in G Major BWV 592  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

## \*Call to Worship

Elka van Staden

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

**People: Let us praise the Lord together.**

Leader: The sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,

**People: for the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.**

Leader: The Lord will be our everlasting light, and our days of sorrow will end.

**People: Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!**

## \*Hymn of Praise #66 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

## Prayer of Confession

Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide.

**People: Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

**People: If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)**

## **God's Gracious Will for Our Lives**

Leader: Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness.

**People: They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.** (1 John 2:9-11)

**\*Gloria Patri #579** "Glory Be to the Father"

## **RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Children's Message**

Nathan Wannemacher

### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6 (p. 748)

Elka van Staden

### **New Testament Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12 (p. 966)

### **Sermon**

"An Epiphany and a Eureka Moment"

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

**\*Hymn of Response #29** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

## **PROFESSING WHAT WE BELIEVE**

### **\*The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **Invitation**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God...

## **Words of Institution**

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament saying:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

Leader: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit...

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **The Bread and the Cup**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**

Tariq Dennison, Treasurer

### **Offertory**

Hymn #58 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

Congregation

**\*Doxology #592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

## **OFFERING OUR PRAYERS TO GOD**

### **Prayers of the People**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

## **GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING**

### **Welcoming Visitors & Announcements**

Tariq Dennison

**\*Hymn of Dedication #210 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

### **\*Sending and Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

### **Postlude**

Fugue in C Major BWV 545  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Ruth Pfister, Organ

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***\*Please stand if you are able.***

*Today's bulletin cover features an illustration of the visit of the Magi from a 15<sup>th</sup> century prayer book. This prayer book was made for the De Grey family of Northamptonshire, England, and is part of the collection of the National Library of Wales.*