



January 2, 2022

St. John's United Church of Christ

As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.

**Called by God
Sharing with the World**

January 2, 2022

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Meditation

“As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.”

Mary Anne Radmacher

Chimes

Prelude Christmas carol - Christopher Holler, saxophone

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn *As With Gladness, Men of Old*

As with gladness, men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most glorious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so, may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
so, may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our Heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Lifting up our Joys

January Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads bold print)

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The glory of God shines in the darkness.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

Follow the star, wherever it leads!

Take the journey that leads to the child.

Let your hearts rejoice. Be overwhelmed with joy!

We worship the Christ child, the hope of the world.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed into this New Year. Forgive us when selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of your Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

We can go forward in the light of God's star, confident in the knowledge that we are forgiven. **Praise be to God!**

Bible Readings

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

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

Pastor's Message

"About Those Magi"

Pastor Jeff

✠ **The Nicene Creed** (*unison*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ **Giving our Gifts to God**

✠ **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠ **Invitation to the Table**

✠ Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the light of the world to show us your way of truth in parables and miracles. Therefore we gather our hearts and voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

✠ Sanctus (*sung*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(The congregation may be seated as the Pastor continues)

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

The Blessing of the Elements

Gracious God, be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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 debts, as we

forgive our debtors. 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 gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.

✠Closing Hymn

We Three Kings

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.

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.

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Refrain:

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

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.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain:

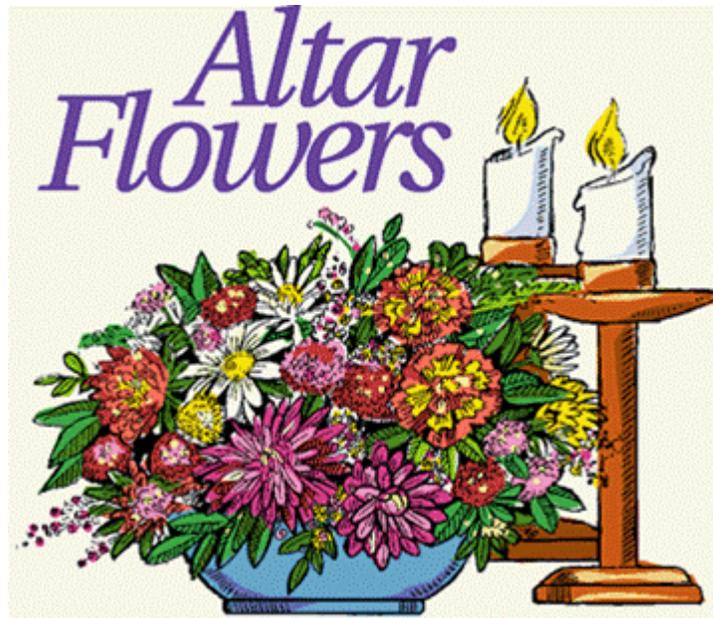
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

✝ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✝ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

Go Tell it on the Mountain



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
In honor of daughter Alison, commemorating her
January 22nd Birthday.
Presented by Bill & Tracey Holler*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson