

Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.

Bible Reading for January 10

Mark 1:4-13 About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." (vs. 9-11)

Discussion Questions

• *The selection above is one of the few places in the Bible that we have a depiction of the three persons of the Trinity. It is one of the early signs in the book of Mark that Jesus is meant to be understood as unusual. How do you think of Jesus? Is he a friend? Some force watching over your life? A companion?*

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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By A Different Road

Matthew 2:1-12

January 3, 2021
Epiphany Sunday

Musical Gift "For Unto Us a Child Is Born" arr. Anderson

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Hymn #237 "Sing We Now of Christmas" Trad. French Carol

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Courtney

Soloist: Leslie Smith

Bible Reading — Matthew 2:1-12

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring

me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

—
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “By a Different Road”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Closing Hymn #254 “We Three Kings”

Hopkins

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
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.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Benediction

Musical Gift

“Joy to the World”

Handel, arr. Hughes

Organist: Virginia Paul

“Sing We Now of Christmas” Words and Music: Traditional French Carol, Public Domain.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” CCLI Song #6113979, Jon Courtney, Steve Brown, Tom Bellamy, © 2011 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

“We Three Kings ((Kings of Orient)” CCLI Song # 38002, John Henry Hopkins Jr., © Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain.

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