

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD
January 3 2010—Epiphany Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Rejoice and Be Merry* arr. R. Powell

WELCOME

INTROIT *O Little One Sweet* arr. David Wilcocks
Text: Traditional German Carol

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;
Thou camest here from heav'n's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

TOLLING OF THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP from Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

All: *and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

Leader: Nations shall come to your light

All: *and rulers to the brightness of your rising.*

Leader: We shall see and be radiant, our hearts will thrill and rejoice.

All: *The multitudes shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.*

Leader: Let us worship God!

+*HYMN 205 *All Hail to God's Anointed* Rockport

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Trusting in God's love and mercy for us, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: *God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore the cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.*

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+*GLORIA PATRI 579

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

♥ (Children are invited to hear God's word in their classes.) ♥

+ANTHEM *San's Day Carol* arr. John Rutter

Text: Traditional Cornish Carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:

And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead:

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 pew Bible N.T. p. 2

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 the 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.

OFFERTORY Two Carols arr. David Wilcocks

Traditional Polish Carol: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

Traditional Czech Carol: *Rocking*
Alison Scherzer, soprano

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm, Snugly round your tiny form.
Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can, Darling, darling little man.

*DOXOLOGY (591) and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERMON Rev. Jana R. Reister

*HYMN 68 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* Puer Nobis Nascitur

SHARING CONCERNS

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY and LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God,
Alleluia!

All: *Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Alleluia!*

Leader: With joy let us pray to our Savior, the Son of God who became one of us, saying: The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place. Draw the whole creation to yourself that your salvation may be known through all the earth.

All: *The grace of God be with us all.*

Leader: O Christ, Savior and Lord, extend your church to every place. Make it a place of welcome for people of every race and tongue.

All: *The grace of God be with us all.*

Leader: O Christ, Ruler of rulers, direct the work and thoughts of the leaders of nations that they may seek justice, and further peace and freedom for all.

All: *The grace of God be with us all.*

Leader: O Christ, Master of all, support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted, strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen. Watch over the lonely and those in danger. Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith of the persecuted.

All: *The grace of God be with us all.*

Leader: Jesus Christ, true light of God, gladden our hearts with your love and call us by our name on the great Day of your coming. Give us grace to offer, with all the hosts of heaven, unending praise to God in whom all things find their ending, now and forever. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, our Rock, who taught us to pray, saying:

All: *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.*

*HYMN 69 *Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Wie Schon Leuchtet

*CHARGE and CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *March of the Kings* arr. C. Simone

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*Please stand as you are able + Latecomers may be seated

During the tolling of the carillon we remember those who are serving our country in the armed services.

We thank Eileen Hupp for serving as liturgist this morning.

Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Behlen and Anna Jane Behlen, by their family.

