



TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Epiphany of Our Lord – January 7, 2024

We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!
** We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP – “We Three Kings”

WELCOME

Pastor Pat Mecham

*** OPENING WORDS**

Star light, star bright, a new Star was seen that night. They journeyed far, traveled light, knelt to worship the Lord of Light.

Let us, too, worship the light. As the light shines in us and through us, may we become signs and witnesses that others, too, may come from far distances to worship.

*** ♪ GATHERING SONG – “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

Congregation

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him, we approach God with confidence.

Together, we confess our sins.

Our memories are short, Eternal God, and we need your nudges to remember your blessings. We get caught up in the worries and wrinkles of living and lose sight of your abiding presence. The urgent and the necessary crowd out playful thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude. We are polite, but distant. Forgive us, faithful God, for outward obedience and inner resistance. Let your light brighten our way, your peace ease our anxious moments, your love heal our troubled minds, your joy kindle our memory and hope. We ask in Jesus’ name.

Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen!**

*** SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God,

Help us to hear your holy Word so that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

EPISTLE READING**Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*** GOSPEL READING****John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION – “A New Light is Shining”

Pastor Pat Mecham

♪ **SONG IN RESPONSE – “Christ be Our Light”**

Congregation

*** 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.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Pat Mecham

Please conclude your prayer with “Lord, in your mercy,” and all will respond, “Hear our prayer.”

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

♪ COMMUNION SONG – “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Congregation

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit, strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* ♪ SENDING SONG – “Drawn to the Light”

Congregation

PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS Birthdays/Anniversaries

We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church, in our local community, and throughout the world.

*** BENEDICTION**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Reflect the Light.

Thanks be to God.

*** POSTLUDE – “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

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TLPC's ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 11663 Hope Court at 10:30 am immediately after the 9:30 am worship service. Your attendance is important...

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at TLPC.org or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God’s world. With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe–Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.

