



January 5, 2025

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Morning Star

Harding

Call to Worship

Bring your gifts and bring your love
to honor the King of love.

**Bring your worship and bring your praise
to pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we come into your presence
with joy and praise,
grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives.
As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship,
fill our hearts with Christmas joy
and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit.
With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

We Three Kings

UMH 254

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Carolyn Nash

May peace prosper among us until the moon is no more. May we share signs of peace and
love to sustain us in this New Year.

Children's Message

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Carol of the Quest

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer of Preparation

All Praying

**May God's word fall upon us,
refreshing us with hope for the new year.
May God's word fall upon us,
nourishing us with grace and love for God's world.
May God's word fall upon us,
challenging us to acts of justice and compassion. Amen**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Carolyn Nash

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn**

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All Hail King Jesus
Sung Twice

TFWS 2069

Sermon

"Falling On Our Knees"

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Carolyn Nash

On this day of celebration, let us bring our gifts, as sages of old once brought gifts to Christ the King. May our gifts become the light of Christ for the world.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

A Canticle of Peace

Ritter

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

Carolyn Nash

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus.

Thank you for the gifts of Christmas.

Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world.

Bless the gifts we bring,

that they may become vessels

of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Larry

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
with Music Response**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,

from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.
You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn

Star Child

TFWS 2095

Prayer of Thanksgiving (All Praying)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GOING FORTH WITH JOY

Closing Hymn

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

UMH 251

***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

***Choral Benediction**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

***Postlude**

The March of the Kings

French Carol

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.***

*2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]*

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

ALL HAIL KING JESUS

*All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;
And I'll reign with you throughout eternity.*

*All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;
And I'll reign with you throughout eternity.*

STAR CHILD

*Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,*

***Refrain:
This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!***

*2 Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know, [Refrain]*

*3 Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears, [Refrain]*

*4 Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store, [Refrain]*

*5 Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine, [Refrain]*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain:

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.***

*1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)*

*2 The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)*

*3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)*