

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day  
Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2023  
Crossnore Presbyterian Church  
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386  
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 20 *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

words & music by Naida Hearn

Acapeldridge: <https://youtu.be/ZxMmj7pdIjM>

Jesus, name above all names.  
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Lord God almighty,  
Wonderful Counselor, Light of the world,  
the Prince of Peace, Hope of Glory,  
Man of Sorrow, Lamb of God.

**Call to Worship:**

Herod's treachery could not stop hope!

**God's light, whose sign was a star, was poured out for the people.**

All the fears and fights of this world cannot diminish God's light.

**That light is the life of Jesus Christ, who breaks through the darkness.**

Thanks be to God, for the most precious gift of Light.

**Let us live as people of new Light and Hope.**

Hymn of Praise # 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Kings College, Cambridge: [https://youtu.be/Lx35\\_DRIZ8g](https://youtu.be/Lx35_DRIZ8g)

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 night,  
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]

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising,  
worshipping God Most High. [Refrain]

KINGS OF ORIENT

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

**Call to Confession:**

There is no place where the Light of Christ does not shine. Let us come before God and each other to confess the dark places in our lives and in our hearts to the One who can forgive us and heal us.

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

**God of Love, we confess we do not always follow your star of love; we turn aside; we weary of the journey. We confess we sometimes cooperate with Herod; we sometimes fail to give our gifts. Forgive us; renew your Spirit in us. Be our star and guide us** (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, the Light of the World, we pray. **Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and Shine. Follow the star. Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem and be transformed from darkness into light.

**Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 621 *I Will Call Upon the Lord***

**I WILL CALL**

**Divine Hymns:** [https://youtu.be/x-1\\_zqezvOY](https://youtu.be/x-1_zqezvOY)

**I will call upon the Lord (ECHO)**

**Who is worthy to be praised (ECHO)**

**So shall I be saved from my enemies (ECHO)**

**The Lord liveth and blessed be my Rock  
And let the God of my salvation be exalted  
The Lord liveth and blessed be my Rock  
And let the God of my salvation be exalted**

**First Lesson: 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.

**Special Music: *Light of the World* performed by We the Kingdom**

<https://youtu.be/tWeXVnRm6R8>

**Second Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

**Sermon: “The Two Faces of the Nativity” (PDF attachment)**

**Rev. Kathy Campbell**

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

We have seen the Light of the world. We have been called to follow the star of promise. Like the Magi, let us bring our gifts to honor Christ who brings light to all the dark places in our community and our world. Let us receive this morning’s offering.

**Doxology # 608**

**PRAISE GOD (Hopson)**

<https://youtu.be/BKcnin5iIJI> - Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

**Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Christ your Son, you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the Light of the world. Amen. (Matthew 2:1-12)**

**Hymn of Meditation # 515 *I Come with Joy***

**DOVE OF PEACE**

<https://youtu.be/rVGjrMgiH5U> - First Plymouth Church Lincoln, Nebraska

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,**

and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for Epiphany Sunday (PDF attachment)

Closing Hymn # 265 *Jesus Shall Reign* (verses 1, 3, 5)

DUKE STREET

<https://youtu.be/5U4IMtvp6bg> - First-Plymouth Church Lincoln, Nebraska

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the prisoners leap to loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Closing Epiphany Prayer:

Where your love resides, there is wholeness;  
where your peace inhabits, there is harmony;  
where your Spirit lives, there is freedom.  
God of gentle whisper, cooling breeze, and sweet perfume,  
infuse our lives with all that is good and pure and holy,  
and we shall be a fragrant offering  
wherever you might need us. Amen

**Benediction:**

The Light of the Star, the light of God's love, shines before you  
as you leave this time of worship.

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love to meet God's people in the world  
and greet them with the good news of salvation. Amen.