

Epiphany Sunday

January 9, 2022



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor
2010 Moholt Drive, Eau Claire WI 54703 ☎ 715-835-5475 ☎ pucc.com



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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January 9, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

“From The Eastern Mountains”
Franz Joseph Haydn, arr. Lorie Line

Greeting

Call to Worship †

L: We gather wondering, “Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

P: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

L: We gather asking, “Where will we find the Child of Christmas?”

P: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

L: We gather wanting to know, “Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”

P: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Opening Hymn 164 Bulletin page 8

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

Prayer of Confession †§

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking Christ are not always pure, expecting him to fulfill our desires rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, compassion, or peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. As we journey with your Son, fill us with his light of joy and love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us: in Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

P: You are forgiven!

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

The Sign of Peace

Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.

Centering Music

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Service of the Word

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

P: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

L: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

P: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

P: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

P: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

L: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

P: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

L: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

P: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–20

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

Sermon

Offering “Shine for Me Again, Star of Bethlehem”

Lynn McFadyen

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self †§

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ.
Receive the gifts we offer in union with Jesus, and help us to live to the honor
and glory of your name. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 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.**

Closing Hymn

“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 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***

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

Benediction †§

L: Go forth into the world.

P: **Proclaim the good news of Christ, the Light of the World.**

L: Receive the inheritance of God's promise.

P: **Live in the light of the gospel and may Jesus Christ uphold you in love!
Amen.**

Postlude

**“March of the Kings”
arr. Lorie Line**

† <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year C, Vol. 1 ©2012 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • **Ministers:** All the people of Plymouth • **Pianist:** Lynn McFadyen • **Liturgist:** Ben Bechle

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

Cross illumination for January is sponsored by Lil Savage in memory of her parents.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, January 9

Prayers for the People

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, January 11

7:00 P.M. Leadership Team

Dartball

Saving Grace at Plymouth

Thursday, January 13

6:00 P.M. Undecorate

Sunday, January 16

OCWM offering

10:00 A.M. Coffee

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

- The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ Rev. John Dorhauer and Wisconsin Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert, along with all UCC staff at the national and Conference level
- These individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Jackie Andersen, Ben Bechle (Ben), Pat (Gary) Burnam, Kay Bussing

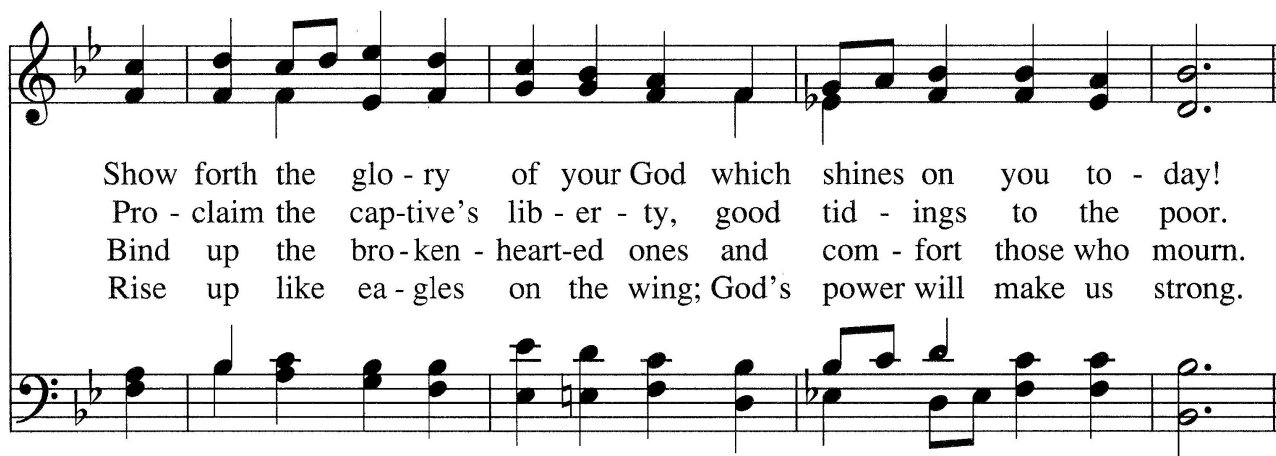
Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

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African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

G D7 G

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

G Em C G/D D7 *Last time, end* G

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

G D7 G

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night.
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born.

G A7 D- *to Refrain*

Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

This is one of the few spirituals heard inside as well as outside African-American churches. It was adapted by John Wesley Work II, who is remembered as the director of the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

Can you think of a dark time in your own life or a dark time in the history of the world when God's glory shone? When the light of Christ's presence became evident? When was that time? What happened? Who was a bearer of light in that darkness? Is there presently someone you know or some situation weighed down in darkness or despair? How can you be a lightbearer for that person, that circumstance?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of this new morning, you have awakened me to the brightness of your dawn. I begin this day in gratitude, recalling your mercies through the night, anticipating glimpses of your glory in the hours ahead. Make my face shine today with the joy of your grace, so that another is helped to see your presence and find hope. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of love, as the sun has set and night has come, I will not be afraid of the darkness, for you are with me. Your glory never recedes, but is always expanding, bringing more and more people into the sphere of your love. Thank you for such boundless grace as has been given in Jesus Christ. Make me a prism for the light of Christ, reflecting his grace to others all my days. In his name I pray. Amen.

God is still speaking,