

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church

10:30 AM

January 9, 2022



Journey of the Magi, James Tissot

PRELUDE

Los magos que llegaron a Belén
(The Magi Who to Bethlehem Did Go)

Traditional Puerto Rican Carol

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thom Shuman

This past year, we found ourselves on a different road,
yet we still look for that Baby born long ago in Bethlehem.

This year, we are worshiping in different ways,
**yet we still look for that Child of Christmas who gifts the needy with hope,
who sets free the oppressed.**

This year, we gather in different places,
**yet we still long to find the One who has come for us,
even as we remain apart from those we love so much.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

May the peace of Christ be with you!

May the peace of Christ be with us all!

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi 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, Herod 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.'"

Herod secretly called for the Magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then Herod 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."

Then the magi 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.

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Searching for The Magi

CAROL

We Three Kings Of Orient Are"

KINGS OF ORIENT

A READING FROM SCRIPTURES

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 God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your youth shall come from far away, and your young ones 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, all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Thom Shuman

We find it so easy to walk down the familiar roads of foolishness, turning our backs on those God would have us love, and ignoring the map God gives us. As we speak of our choices, let us open our hearts to the One who offers us the hope and grace we seek, even if we don't realize it.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

If we turned toward the Light you offer, Creator of stars, we would find the road you want us to travel. But we are more comfortable on those shadowed streets of seduction we know all too well. We can drive down the roads of rebellion with our eyes closed. We continue to play hopscotch with hate and fear on the sidewalks placed along the paths of prejudice.

Have mercy on us, Shaper of universes as well as our lives. How foolish we are to continue to take the easy paths, rather than that road of justice, that road of hope, that road of forgiveness that are less traveled in these days. May we be like those wise ones of so long ago, who found grace, salvation, and you by following that different road of faith which lead them to that Child called Jesus, who would guide them and the rest of us, from that moment on. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Open your eyes! The Light has come to all of us, to each of us. The Light of justice, the Light of love, the Light of life.

This Light is not just for us, so we will carry it to everyone we meet, as we travel down the different road of faith in our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen!



Fowler, John. Rising Star, Milky Way, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Dead Stars

Ada Limón

Out here, there's a bowing even the trees are doing.
 Winter's icy hand at the back of all of us.
Black bark, slick yellow leaves, a kind of stillness that feels
so mute it's almost in another year.

I am a hearth of spiders these days: a nest of trying.

We point out the stars that make Orion as we take out
 the trash, the rolling containers a song of suburban thunder.

It's almost romantic as we adjust the waxy blue
 recycling bin until you say, Man, we should really learn
some new constellations.

And it's true. We keep forgetting about Antlia, Centaurus,
 Draco, Lacerta, Hydra, Lyra, Lynx.

But mostly we're forgetting we're dead stars too, my mouth is full
 of dust and I wish to reclaim the rising—

to lean in the spotlight of streetlight with you, toward
 what's larger within us, toward how we were born.

Look, we are not unspectacular things.
 We've come this far, survived this much. What
would happen if we decided to survive more? To love harder?

What if we stood up with our synapses and flesh and said, No.
 No, to the rising tides.

Stood for the many mute mouths of the sea, of the land?

What would happen if we used our bodies to bargain
for the safety of others, for earth,
 if we declared a clean night, if we stopped being terrified,
if we launched our demands into the sky, made ourselves so big
people could point to us with the arrows they make in their minds,
rolling their trash bins out, after all of this is over?

REFLECTION

Rev. Cindy Shepherd

HYMN

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Felix Franken

1. O Morning Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and light! My Sovereign meek and lowly! O Root of Jesse, Promised One, my God and Ruler, you have won my heart to serve you solely! You are holy, great and glorious, all-victorious, Rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

2. Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep within my heart now shine, there make yourself an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be your member, joined eternally in love that cannot falter; Longing for you does possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

from the Book of Common Worship, 2018

Loving God, remember the whole human family,
especially those who hunger for food or justice,
those who lack homes or human dignity;
so many are unknown to us, yet each known to you and each a child of your love.
Remember your people in every part of the world,
dedicated to service, called to love.
Remember your Church in this place,
set in this community to light the way to your grace and truth.
Remember those who are ill or sorrowing,
those who are concerned for dear ones,
those who have difficult choices to make,
especially any known to us whom we commend to you now
May they know that nothing is able to separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.
By your mercy, bring us at the last, with all your faithful people,
to the peace and joy of your nearer presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Maori, from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CHALKING THE DOORS

Book of Common Worship

An old Epiphany tradition involves using chalk to write the letters CMB and the numbers of the current year, separated by crosses (+), over the doors of congregations and Christian homes: 20 + C + M + B + 25 or CMB + 2025. The letters CMB are said to stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

Before or after chalking the doors, the following or a similar prayer may be said:

God of doors and homes,
bless this home this year and every year.
Bless all who come and go through this door,
both those who live here and those who visit.
May all who enter through this door
come in peace and bring joy.
May all who come to this door
find welcome and love.
May the love and joy in this home overflow
and spread into the community and the world.

And may Jesus the Christ watch over us all. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional English Carol

Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgist -----Marlyn Rinehart
Guest Pastor -----Rev. Cindy Shepherd
Pastor -----Rev. Heidi Weatherford
Associate Pastor -----Rev. Keith Harris
Director of Christian Education -----Sara McHenry
Director of Music -----Dr. Yohei Endo
Worship Techs-----Lara Hebert & Michael Proulx
Musicians -----Members and friends of the McKinley Choir

**We invite you to continue supporting
the work of McKinley.**



By giving online at

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=2133263>

you can point camera to this QR code on your phone.

Or by mailing your donations to

[McKinley Presbyterian Church](#)

[809 S. Fifth street](#)

[Champaign, IL 61820](#)

[How to Contact the Church Staff](#)

All church staff can be contacted through the McKinley Website:

www.mckinleycu.org.

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church



Thank you for joining us for worship!

McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith

Offering genuine welcome,

Working for reconciliation, and

Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church

809 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 217.344.0297 www.mckinleycu.org