

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – January 2, 2022**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**  
**Church in person at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.**



**Opening Music**

**Welcome**

*Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

Arise! Shine! Let us praise God together!

**God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.**

Arise! Shine!

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Arise! Shine!

**God's light overcomes the shadows that cover the world.**

Arise! Shine!

**Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.**

**The Glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Let us worship together.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn** [*stand*]

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Glory to God #143

## **Call to Confession**

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed.  
Wherever there is epiphany there are also shadows:  
the shadows of old dogma, refusing to fade;  
the shadows of pride  
the shadows of entrenched evil.  
Let us make our confession together.

## **Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

**Most holy and most loving God,  
we admit to you and to each other,  
that through foolishness or willfulness  
we choose the shadows instead of the light.  
We surrender to you our fears and proud opinions,  
our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom,  
our deep seated sins and our apathy about change and renewal.  
Please forgive the pain we have inflicted on others,  
and restore the hopes and ideals within our own souls.  
Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!**

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

## **Assurance of Pardon** [*responsive*]

My friends, Epiphany is good news!  
The Light comes not to sear and blind us, but to save us.  
**Our sins are forgiven; we begin the year as new people.**  
Thanks be to God.

## **We Listen to God's Word**

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### **Children's Message**

*Children and youth stay in worship today.*

### **Scripture**

**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, <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Readers Theater**

**The Council of the Magi**

Richard Skinner

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

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### **Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Communion Music** [*seated*] "The First Nowell," verses 5 and 6      Glory to God #147

### **Invitation to the Communion Table and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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 truly right, and our greatest joy...

## 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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*For those worshiping at home:*

*Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.*

*For those worshiping in the sanctuary:*

*The elements will be served after the closing blessing, for safety.*

*The elements at GPC are always gluten free.*

## Prayer after Communion

## We Depart for Service

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## Announcements

**Sending Song** [*stand*]

"Seek Ye First"

Glory to God #175

## Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## Closing Blessing

## Closing Music

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## Participating in the service:

Yerusa Sandhu, Lainey Young, Max Young, Terry Young, Worship Leaders (11:00)

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Austin



Please sign the guest book by using your smartphone camera to scan the QR code ([gpchurch.org/guestbook](http://gpchurch.org/guestbook))