



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 ONLINE WORSHIP**

**Faith Presbyterian Church**

**Sierra Vista, Arizona**

*EPIPHANY – THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM*



**PRELUDE** - *"We Three Kings"* - Hopkins

**INTROIT** - *"As With Gladness Men of Old"*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine: for your light has come,  
**and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

Nations shall come to your light  
**and rulers to the brightness of your rising.**

We have come to praise God,  
who has done wonderful things among us.

**In Jesus Christ, God has shown  
us love, giving light for our darkness,  
and strength for all our days.**

Sing praise to God's name, bow before  
God in prayer, open your hearts to  
God's saving word.

**Arise, shine, for your light has come!**

**HYMN** – *"There's a Star in the East"* #135

*There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow the star of Bethlehem.*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*If you take good heed to the angel's words,*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herds.*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow the star of Bethlehem.*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,  
we confess our poor sense of direction.  
We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.  
We fail to follow the signs you provide.  
Forgive our waywardness, O God.  
Lead us to the Christ, so that we may follow his way to you.

Silent Confession

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news:  
In the name of the triune God  
I declare that, as far as the east is from  
the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
**Thanks be to God. Our sins are forgiven.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT** - Star Words

**CHILDREN'S TIME** - Richard Carter

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - *"I Wonder as I Wander"* arr. Haas Recorder Quartet:

Carol Szediak, soprano; Melissa Buckley, alto; Nancy Falconer, tenor; Martha Conklin, bass

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** - Numbers 24:15-17

Then [Balaam] spoke this message:  
"The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,  
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,  
the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,  
who has knowledge from the Most High,  
who sees a vision from the Almighty,  
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:  
"I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near.  
A star will come out of Jacob;  
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

Holy wisdom, holy word, **Thanks Be to God**

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Matthew 2:1-22**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“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.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.”

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Holy wisdom, holy word, **Thanks Be to God**

## **SERMON – “The Wise Still seek Him”**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 of Orient Are*” #151**

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.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

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

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **BENEDICTION RESPONSE – “Shine Jesus Shine” #192**

*Shine Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory.*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.*

*Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

## **POSTLUDE – “Go Tell It On The Mountain” - Traditional**

### **Participants:**

George Vander Meulen – Guest Preacher

Elder Sonja Vander Meulen – Worship Leader

Carol Szediak, Melissa Buckley, Nancy Falconer, Martha Conklin – Special Music

Elder Richard Carter – Children’s Time

Janis Wheat – Piano and Organ

Elder Paul Hay – Video-Tech

Elder Judy Mayhew – Photo

### **ZOOM COFFEE HOUR      *Happens at 11:15 a.m.***

Sign into ZOOM, and we’ll place you in a small, Hosted group to have conversation with Faith folks to catch up and for conversation. Join Zoom Meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85471968282?pwd=WnNpVXM1QndXTWdNNXN1QzNtNXFTUT09>

**Meeting ID: 854 7196 8282      Passcode: 603532**

Dial by your location (call any number)

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