

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC Impressions on Kings of Orient David Lasky

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

\* UNISON INTROIT (Hymn 143, v. 1)  
Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth.  
You, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth.  
Come and worship! Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn king.

\* GREETING AND RESPONSES Susan Crane  
Grace to you and peace, from God our Creator, and Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And also to you.  
The Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.  
We have seen his glory.  
Jesus said, Let your light shine before others.  
And they will see your goodness and give glory to God.

\* HYMN 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO

\* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
The grace of God has dawned on the world, bringing healing for all.  
Alleluia! Amen.  
Beloved in Christ: God is with us!  
We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION  
God of power and glory, whose light shined fully in Jesus, we confess our pride and stubborn intensions that diminish your light in us. When we turn from the poor and the suffering, forgive us, and set us free to be light that shines in dark places. When we ignore cries for justice and tolerate evil that benefits us, forgive us and set us free from the darkness that holds us captive. Give us your grace that we will be light in this new year; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON I John 1:1-7 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.238)

SOLO Sweet Little Jesus Boy Spiritual  
Abraham Roos, solo Robert Mac Gimsey  
Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy Child didn’t know who you was. Didn't know you’d come to save us, Lord to take our sins away. Our eyes was blind we couldn’t see. We didn’t know who you was. Long time ago you was born. Born in a manger low sweet little Jesus boy. The world treat you mean Lord, treat me mean too. But please sir, forgive us Lord. We didn’t know ‘twas you.

\* GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-18 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.2)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DEPARTING SONG  
The star drew nigh to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem it took its rest.  
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the king of Israel.

SERMON “The Power that Unleashes and Overcomes Evil” Dr. Butler  
“When Herod realized he had been outwitted, he was furious.”

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

\* HYMN 151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” KINGS OF ORIENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

OFFERTORY Christ, You Who are Day and Light Johann Pachelbel

\* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* HYMN 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old” DIX

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* DEPARTING MUSIC Praeludium und Fuga in g Johann Sebastian Bach  
The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship,  
service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor  
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates  
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music  
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary  
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist  
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper  
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian  
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Epiphany Sunday  
January 4, 2026  
10 a.m.