

Myerstown United Church of Christ

First Sunday After the Epiphany: Remembering the Epiphany

January 12, 2020

Worship Time 8:00 am

Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Johan Pachelbel

Silent Preparation for Worship

God of mystery by the leading of a star, you revealed your only begotten one to the gentiles, lead us, who have already come to know you by faith, all the way to the contemplation of the beauty of your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

(will all who are able, please stand)

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*Call to Worship [Leader/All]

The story is out!

Jesus Christ, Light of the World, has been born to dispel the darkness that covers its people.

God's glory appears in human form.

Life on earth will never be the same again!

*Invocation

Let pray as one.

God of Light, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Savior was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness and still in need of making that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us; That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn #91

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

(the congregation may be seated)

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Confession As a Community

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect 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, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

Confession As an Individual

Assurance of Pardon

Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture

A Reading from the Epistles

1 Peter 2:4-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out

of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

[will those who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

*A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 2:1-12
Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as remembered by Matthew in the first 12 verses of chapter 2.
Praise be to you, O Christ.

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.

This is where the reading ends. It is the gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

[the congregation may be seated]

Homily

Who We Are

Rev Dr. Bruce Hill

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Dr Hill

Praying As Our Savior Taught Us

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.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

*Sending Forth

Now, God sends us out by a different road.

So we may find those who have been left by the side of the world.

Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

So we may serve those who are lonely and frightened.

Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand to walk in wonder and grace.

*Benediction

Dr Hill

*Recessional #248 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

*Personal Meditation

Postlude

Deo Gracias

Acknowledgements

We are delighted to welcome The Rev Dr Bruce Hill into our midst again. Prior to being elected Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church [ECC], Bruce served as the Lead Pastor of Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring PA. Other ministry settings include Chief Executive Officer of the ECC Retirement Village and pastor for two ECC congregations—Hosensack and Bridgeville. Bruce's work includes a variety of International ministry events. He is an outdoors enthusiast and collects Roy Rogers memorabilia. Bruce and his wife Gloria live in Richland PA.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Sarah Harding by her daughter, Jean Gerhart.

Some of the liturgy for this service has been reprinted from *Faith & Worship: A selection of prayers for the season of Epiphany*. Copyright © John Birch, 2016. Prayers written by the author may be copied freely for worship. https://www.faihandworship.com/prayers_Epiphany.htm; from *Liturgy: Spiritual practices for a digital world*. Bosco Peters; <https://liturgy.co.nz/reflections/epiphany>; from *Lectionary Liturgies: Day of Epiphany*. Thom Schuman. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/12/day-of-epiphany-abc.html>; and by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

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Worship Assistants for January 19, 2020

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Marcia Bicher
Greeters: Lindy Bennetch **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold
Service of Healing Assistants:
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Bob Dash
Greeters: Ed & Candy Hibshman **Liturgist & Lector:** Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Ushers: Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick
Service of Healing Assistants:
Counting Team: Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

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Prayer List

Nancy Brown	Rosene Duffy	Suzanne Fritsch
Steve Norford	James Haines	Linda Herr
Ellen Goodyear	Ruthann Snoke	Bill Gracely
Ralph Woynarowski	Jewel Fessler	Linda Feaser
Rosalla Hollenbach	Joanne Frantz	Heather & Elvin Perez

Announcements

SERVICE OF HEALING: The Worship Support Team has scheduled the Order for Healing on January 19, 2020; it will be held during both services. The current plan is to have a service of healing each quarter. The actual Sunday of the quarter will be determined based on other liturgical events and/or

FLOWER SPONSOR is needed for January 19th. If you would like provide the flowers, please contact the church office.

2020 CHURCH ENVELOPES are in the Gathering Area.

CHURCH STAFF EMAIL: Beginning today, the church staff with the exception of the custodian have church email addresses. It is preferred that you begin using them rather than personal email addresses.

Pastor	muccpastor@comcast.net
Parish Administrator	muccparishadmin@comcast.net
Church Office / Secretary	myerstownucc@comcast.net
Financial Administrator	muccfinance@comcast.net
Organist/Worship Music Coordinator	muccmusic@comcast.net

SIGNUP TODAY: There are 2 new sign up sheets on the Information Table. One is for *Better Families* and the other for *Conversational*.

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, January 12
 8:00 am Worship, Bruce Hill preaching
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Chapel]
 10:00 am Worship, Bruce Hill preaching

Monday, January 13
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Tuesday, January 14
 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Pastoral Office Hours [preferably by appointment]

Wednesday, January 15
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]
 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]

Friday, January 17
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, January 18

Sunday, January 19
 8:00 am Worship with Service of Healing
 8:45 am Faith Formation Groups
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Chapel]
 10:00 am Worship with Service of Healing

Epiphany Events



Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

website: myerstownuccchurch.org

- Kory Leppo ----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President
- Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder
- Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor
- Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator
- Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 -Family & Community Ministry Coordinator
- Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator
- Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary
- Elicia Frank----- Custodian

Worship Assistants

Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:

Organist Mark Herr

8:00 am Service

Open Church: Mark Herr
Greeter: Shirley Krall **Worship Leader:** Jim Yoder

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Jim & Beth Diehm **Worship Leader** Margo McQuate
Sound: Paulie McQuate
Ushers Travis, Angie, Gabby, and Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charlie & Carolyn Williams

Stewardship Report for Sunday, January 5, 2020

General Fund \$_____ OCWM \$_____
 Church Improvement Fund \$_____
 Attendance 9 am: _____