

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

First Sunday After the Epiphany: Remembering the Epiphany

January 12, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

## Traditional 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

Second Sunday Sharing

Carolyn Williams

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.**

Praising #231

*Arise, Your Light Has Come*

FESTAL SONG

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

A Time With Children

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

Hymn # 241 *When Jesus Came to Jordan* MUNICH  
*[verse 3 only]*

Prayer 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.**

Offering

Invitation

Offertory *Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

\*Response #235 *Brightest and Best* MORNING STAR  
*[verse 3 only]*

\*Blessing

Let us pray in unison.

**May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry, healing to the broken, community to the lonely, and hope to those who live in the shadows of our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith *A New Creed* Hymnal Back Cover

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.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Epiphany.htm](https://www.faithandworship.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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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 |

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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

**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

**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.

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY** and the beginning of Lent is 19 February 20. The pastors are in agreement about working again with Friedens Lutheran Church as we did for Christmas Eve. Please mark your calendars now.

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Transition

Our new pastor, Paul R. Cronin, will begin his ministry with the congregation on Monday, 3 February 20. Pastors Paul and Jim are in the process of determining what the transition period needs are and will work with the Church Council to ensure an effective and smooth changeover.

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## Worship Assistants for January 19, 2020

8:00 am Service  
**Greeters:** Lindy Bennetch  
**Service of Healing Assistants:**  
 10:00 am Service  
**Greeters:** Ed & Candy Hibshman    **Liturgist & Lector:** Steve & Marianne Fritsch  
**Ushers:** Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick  
**Service of Healing Assistants:** Suzie Wartluft, Darryl Brown, Kristi Fields  
 Suzie Schott, Carolyn & Charles Williams  
**Counting Team:** Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

**Open Church:** Marcia Bicher  
**Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold  
 Wanda Rabold, Jackie Shaak  
**Sound:** Bob Dash

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### 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]  
 6:30 pm            Church Council [Library]

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  
 11:00 am            Elders [Library]

## 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](http://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:                      \_\_\_\_\_