

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE | EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
First United Methodist Church of Houston
January 4, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIPThe First NoelUMH 245

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Repeat Refrain

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Repeat Refrain

This 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.

Repeat Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there in his presence,
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense.

Repeat Refrain

WELCOMERev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*CAROL OF WELCOMEWe Three KingsUMH 254

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 light, 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.

Repeat Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

Repeat Refrain

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

Repeat Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Repeat Refrain

OFFERING PRAYERRev. Dr. Eric Pugh

MINISTRY IN MUSICCarol of the MagiJohn Rutter
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We rode all night thro' fields of darkness, our guiding light, the eastern stars;
We came to Bethlehem, we all were weary: we'd travelled far that night,
We heard that here we'd find Messiah foretold by seers from days of old;
We looked for palaces: and found a stable. Could it be here, so bare and cold?
We entered in and there we saw him; it seemed we'd known him from long before.
A child like any child, yet somehow different: the face of every child in him we saw
The face of every child we saw. We brought him gifts and now we offered them,
We knelt down low in silent prayer. With eyes that seem to know both joy and sadness;
The child looked down as we knelt there. So long ago, yet I remember,
That child who lay at Mary's knee. How strange that every child seemed so much like him;
His is the face I seem to see.

*OFFERING RESPONSEAngels We Have Heard on High RefrainUMH 238
Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLERev. Amanda Davis

*PRAYER OF CONFESSIONRev. Amanda Davis
Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you with our whole
hearts. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your
will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have
not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESSRev. Amanda Davis
Hear the good news... ...in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSEBecause He Lives (Refrain)UMH 364
Refrain: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

TIME FOR CHILDRENCourtney Hutchins

*CAROL OF JOYThere’s a Song in the Air vs. 1, 2, 4UMH 249
There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger in Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

*SCRIPTUREExodus 3:1-15Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick
The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

MESSAGEGod’s Better Future:Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick
Pray. Listen. Share.

PASTORAL AND WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYERRev. Amanda Davis

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with
whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work
for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be
full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely
and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O
wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, you are mine,
and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it
also be made in heaven. Amen.

*HYMN OF INVITATIONHere I am, LordUMH 593
I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send?

Repeat Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Repeat Refrain

THE GREAT THANKSGIVINGRev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick,
Rev. Amanda Davis, & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

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!

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise
your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest!

...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

Wren & Trenney

will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

arr. Albert Hay Malotte

and the glory, forever. Amen.

Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

and in loving memory of Ned Godwin, by his wife, Elva.

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Jeremy Wood

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