

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting Time Brice Smith

Opening #229 “The First Noel” *CANTIQUE DE NOËL*

***Call to Worship**

The feast day of your birth resembles you, Lord, because it brings joy to all humanity.

Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.

Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.

Kings and emperors may pass away, and the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse. But your festival will be remembered till the end of time.

Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.

At your birth, heaven and earth were reconciled;

Since you came from heaven to earth on that day you forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.

You gave us so many gifts on your birthday:

A treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick; spiritual light for those that are blind; the cup of salvation for the thirsty; the bread of life for the hungry.

In the winter when trees are bare, you give us the most succulent spiritual fruit.

In the frost when the earth is barren, you bring new hope to our souls.

In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the staff of life springs from the virgin womb. Amen.

A Prayer of Ephraim the Syrian (c 306-373).

The Complete Book of Christian Prayer, p 377. All rights reserved.

Songs of Faith “Shine, Jesus Shine” Worship Team

*Invocation Prayer

Song of Praise #233 “We Three Kings” *Kings of Orient*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

*Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Responsorial #236 “As with Gladness Men of Old” *DIX*

Children’s Message (3rd Grade and younger to Junior Church)

Invitation to Giving our Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings & Prayer

Message “The Revelation of God: A Star, A Word, A Child”
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Invitation to the Lord’s Table – We practice *open communion*. All persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ are invited to partake of this memorial meal. You do not need to be a member of this church to partake of the bread and cup. Please hold each gift until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Song #210 “Love Came Down at Christmas” *WHITNEY*

Holy Communion: The Lord’s Supper –

Breaking of Bread – *The Body of Christ; The Bread of Heaven*

Passing of the Cup – *The Blood of Christ; The Cup of Salvation*

The Agape Fund - The Collection for the Saints and the Needy

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

***Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Song #218** **“Go Tell It On The Mountain”** *Go, Tell It*

***Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand if able*

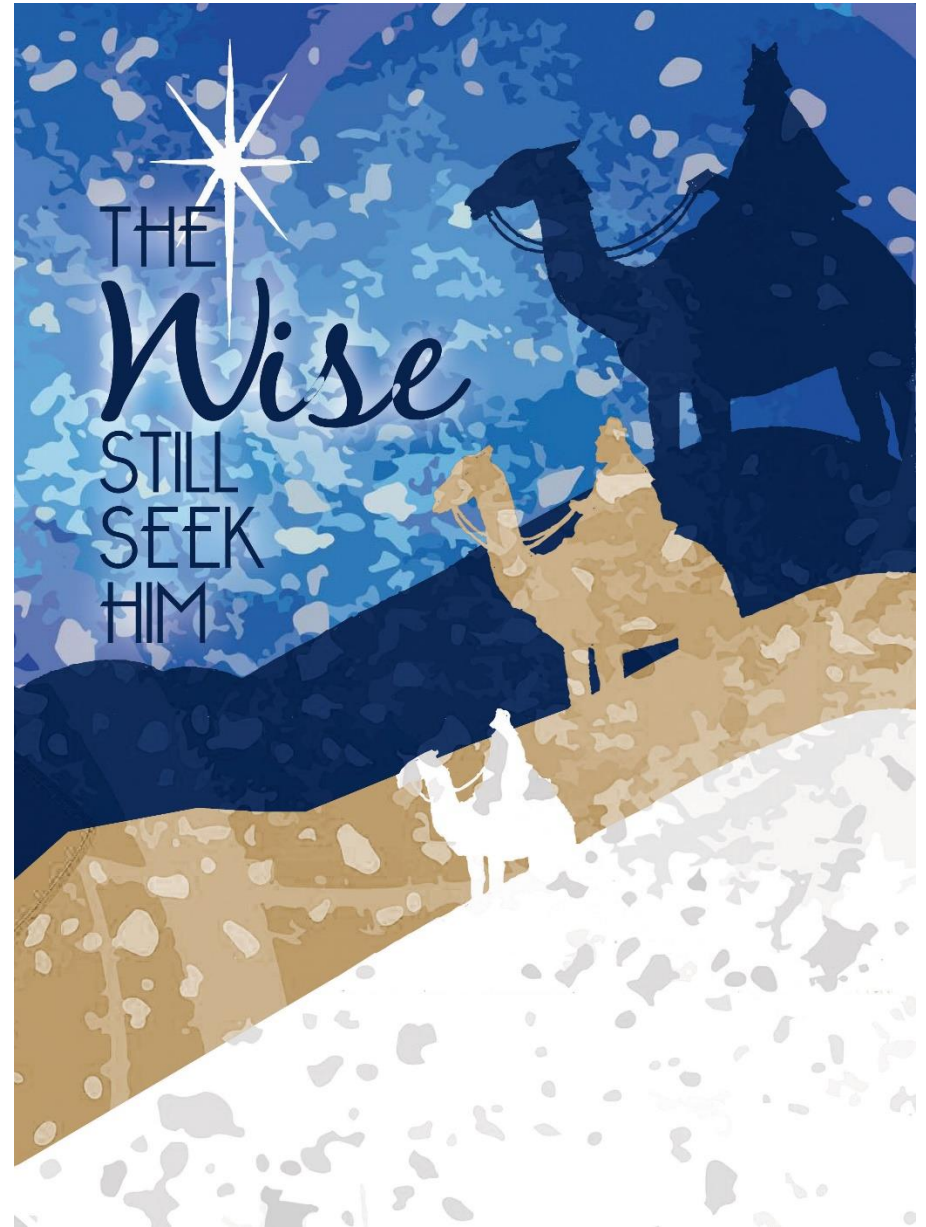
BELIEVER’S BAPTISM – We practice “believer’s baptism” which is the immersion of a person in water – regardless of age – who receives Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and publicly professes faith to walk the Jesus way. The Council schedules baptisms on most Sunday mornings throughout the year. If you would like to be baptized, then come to the front during the last song.

THE LORD’S SUPPER – We celebrates the Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion) on the first Sunday of each month. All persons, regardless of age, race or church affiliation, are welcome to partake of the Table of the Lord. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we use only non-alcoholic grape juice. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.



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