

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

Prelude: "Pat-a-Pan" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr.by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Opening Reading Psalm 72:1-7 Elder, Mick Domenick

*** Hymn** "The First Nowell" No. 56

Call to Prayer and Prayer for Renewal (Be seated) Elder
In the light of Christ, *Isaiah 60:1-3*

we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God,
you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.
your justice protects the weak and the distressed,
yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.
your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy,
yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.
your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless,
yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.

Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ we pray.

(A time for silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness Whit Dempsey

Amen. This is the good news:
Christ is the light of the world,
who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

Thanks be to God!

*** Sung Response** (Stand as desired.) Tune: Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 707) Deacon Reader, Jeanne Miller
Matthew 2:1-12 (NT pgs. 1-2) The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Time with all Ages: C.E. director of Children & Youth, Linda Valo
(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)
This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.
Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

Sermon "Star Words" The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*** Hymn** "We Three Kings of Orient Are" No. 66

Star Words

Star Liturgy (responsive) Elder

ONE: We are seekers—just like the Magi.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: We are looking for hope, peace, joy, love and so much more that Christ brings.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: We long for the abundant life God promises.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: May this star word be one of encouragement.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: May we pay attention to where God is present.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

ONE: May God use these words to show us how to live and love in the world.

ALL: Light our paths and lead us closer to you. Amen.

Announcements The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Communion of the People

Prayers at the table (including prayers of the people)

Words of Institution

Serving Communion "All Is Well" Arr. Don Wyrzten

Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

(Bread is taken individually. Please wait to take juice/wine together.)

*(White grape juice is in the outer ring of the tray;
red wine in the middle ring, and water in the center.)*

Prayer after Communion

Offertory

“Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. John Innes

*** Presentation of Offering**

(Verse 4, No. 22)

*All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Ever more your voices raising, to th’eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn**

“As with Gladness Men of Old” No. 63

Charge and Benediction

*** Sung Congregational response:** *Christ, Be Our Light!* GTG 314



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

Postlude

“Masters in this Hall” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. John Innes

Pulpit Elder: Mick Domenick Deacon Reader: Jeanne Miller
Time with All Ages: Linda Valo Ushers: Betsy Smith & Jeff Stimson
Communion: Jo Ann Flores, Lori Golightly, Jim Niquette, and Nancy Rosi

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Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey pastor@wrpres.org

Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director: Julie Pulliam, M.A.

Choir Director: Taylor Robinson

Treasurer: Eileen Gardner, C.P.A. • Assistant Treasurer: Betsy Smith

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner



WPC Mission Statement

*To worship God through faith and action,
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
to be an extended family to all,
and to serve the community
through programs, education and prayer.*

*Epiphany Sunday
January 8, 2023*