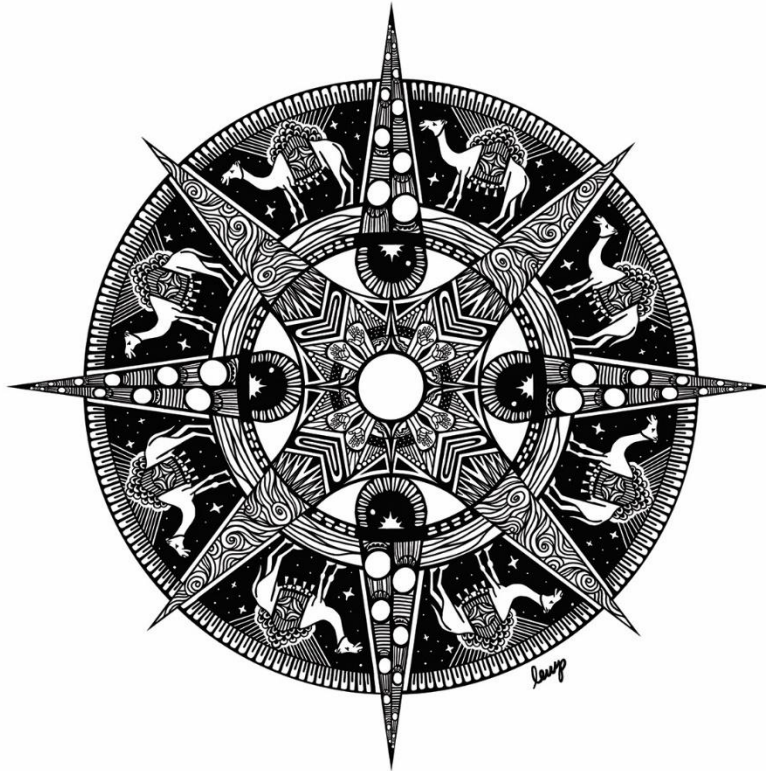


**Worship @ Home Guide - Jan 3, 2021**

**Epiphany Sunday – Woodstock  
& Tuscarora Presbyterian Churches**



**Prelude** – “In the Bleak Midwinter”, Heartstrings Dulcimer Group

**Welcome** – Rev. Kate Rascoe

**Call to Worship**

One: The Magi had a dream.

**All: They dreamed of a Messiah.**

**They dreamed of just rulers.**

**They dreamed of a new day for all people.**

One: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

**All: They journeyed to unknown places.**

**They followed a star.**

**They walked for days to get to Jesus.**

One: So may we be like the Magi,

**All: May our dreams inspire action.**

**May we worship the one true God. Amen.**

**Song** – People Look East (Sterling PC)

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east: Love the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your  
strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.**

**People look east: Love, the Rose is on the way.**

**Birds, Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining  
beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.**

**People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Prayer of Confession - Linda New**

**God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.  
I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.  
I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.  
Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.  
Now and again, the stars disappear.  
My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.  
On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.  
Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.  
I want to be as brave as the Magi.  
I want to persevere.  
Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Amen.**

**Song – What Star is This (Middletown PC)**

*What star is this, with beams so bright,  
More beautiful than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King,  
And Gentile to His crib to bring.*

*True spake the prophet from a-far  
Who told the rise of Jacob's star:  
And eastern sages with amaze  
Upon the wondrous token gaze.*

*The guiding star above is bright:  
Within them shines a clearer light,  
And leads them on with power benign  
To seek the Giver of the sign.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace  
Impels us on to seek thy face,  
Let not our slothful hearts refuse  
The guidance of thy light to use.*

*To God the Father, heav'nly Light,  
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Holy Ghost we raise  
Our equal and unceasing praise.*

**Prayer of Illumination - Ross Hudson**

*God of the Milky Way,  
We, like the Magi, are walking toward you.  
One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.  
It is our very prayer to move your way.  
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.  
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.  
And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,  
Give us the will to persevere.  
We are walking toward you, O God.  
So like the parent that throws open the door,  
Open the door to us through this text.  
Amen.*

**Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> '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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Message – “A Star to Guide Us”, Rev. Kate Rascoe**

**Song – O Morning Star**

**O Morning Star, how fair, how bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light; a glow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s line, King David’s son, our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o’er all possessing!**

**Affirmation of Faith - Linda New**

**We believe in God,  
Who came to this earth as a child,  
Was born to unmarried teenage parents,  
And was quickly made a refugee.  
We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,  
See the poor,  
Dine with outcasts,  
Welcome foreigners,  
Wash the feet of sinners,  
Offer second chances,  
And bless the children.  
And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.  
The dream does not end with a manger.  
The dream ends with God’s promised day.  
So until all God’s children are home,  
We will follow the Magi’s lead—  
Walking, seeking, and looking up.  
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.**

**Communion**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer**

**Sending Song – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Middletown PC)**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore.**

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Charge & Benediction**

**Postlude – We Three Kings (LexPres)**

Credits:

Liturgists: Linda New, Ross Hudson

Tech support: JJ Jone, Lori Staley

Musical contributions: Heartstrings Dulcimer Group; Middletown PC; Sterling PC; Bill McCorkle, Lexington PC

Liturgy: A Sanctified Art