



Arise, Shine by Lauren Wright Pittman, A Sanctified Art

Epiphany

January 3, 2021

Zoom Worship

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

You are invited to light all the candles on your advent wreath or any candle at this time.

PRELUDE	<i>What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright</i>	arr. Vicki Collinsworth
WELCOME		Rev. Eric Sherlock
CARILLON		Lori Smith
CALL TO WORSHIP		Sreen Mahmood

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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Screen Mahmood

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with waves and smiles
and pass the peace of Christ using the chat feature.

OPENING HYMN

Arise! Your Light is Come

A TIME FOR CONFESSION

Rev. Mariah Callison

**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.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Chris Rauen

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Mahmood Family

SERMON

Persevere

Pastor Eric

ANTHEM

The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius

Solo:

Chorus:

*Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

*The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

*Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,*

*Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing.*

*Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Mariah

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

(Email your requests to Pastor Eric or type them in the chat window.)

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using these words or the words most familiar to you)

Our Loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

TIME OF GIVING

Tahir Mahmood

Invitation to Giving

[During this time of virtual worship, we invite you to give online via our web site and clicking "Donate" in the upper right of the screen.](#)

Doxology **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offertory Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Can you remember the first time you saw a shooting star, or the first time you saw the Milky Way?

There is something so shockingly holy about it.

One minute it's a normal night, the next minute the sky is taking your breath away.

I feel that same sense of awe here at this Table.

For one minute we are moving through our day to day lives,

And the next we're being told that this Table has room for everything,

And that at this Table all can be fed. Where else in the world do we hear those messages?

It can take my breath away.

So today you will be invited, as you always are, to come to this Table.

And you are not invited because of what you have or have not done.

You cannot be invited because you're a good Christian or a good person.

You are invited, simply because you belong to God, and that is enough.

So come to this Table.

Come with your questions, and your doubts, and your fears.

Come with your hope, your awe, and your love for the world.

Come with all of you, authentically and honestly.

For God is undoubtedly at this Table, and God is inviting you.

Let us pray. . .

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of starlight,

There has always been something holy about stars for us.

We wish on them.

We look for them.

We celebrate when we see them streaking across the sky on summer nights.

We map out their designs, and consider glimpses of the Milky Way holy enough for bare feet.

There has always been something holy about stars.

We know that.

You know that.

The Magi *must* have known that.

So today we come to you in prayer, trusting that if you can paint the stars in the sky,

Then surely you can hear us over the noise.

So first we pray for people wishing on stars:

We pray for those for whom 2020 was a year full of hospital rooms and isolation.

We pray for those who lost love in 2020.

We pray for those who lost life in 2020.

We pray for those who lost a job, a home, or a sense of hope in 2020.

We pray for parents forced to homeschool children in 2020,

And for children who missed their friends in 2020.

We pray for the milestones canceled in 2020,

And for the breath that was stolen in 2020.

However, at the same time,

We also say a prayer of gratitude for all the stars you have left for us this last year—

The signs and mile markers of hope on the horizon.

For example, we could not have survived without the birthday parades and the sidewalk chalk.

And oh how we needed the slower schedule, and the family around dinner tables.

We thank you for the gifts of technology, backyard gardening, and sourdough bread.

We thank you for every variety of essential workers, from grocery store clerks and teachers,
to internet technicians and doctors.

We thank you for the quiet that came with less cars on the road and less planes in the sky.

We thank you for protesters demanding justice and for leaders like the late John Lewis
who refused to give up on a broken system.

In so many ways, 2020 was a turbulent year, and in so many ways, you were there,
leaving stars in the sky, painting hope on the horizon.

So today, in this new year, we ask that once more you would give us a sign.

Pour out a double portion of your Spirit on this bread and cup, and on these star words,

So that these ordinary objects might provide us a glimpse of something more.

For like the Magi, we are seeking you.

Like the Magi, we are looking up.

Like the Magi, we just need a sign.

Guide our feet. Show up in the mundane and the extraordinary.

Be in the stars in the sky and in our everyday lives.

We are hopeful, O God. We are hopeful.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

God of ink black skies and starry nights,

Like the Magi so many years ago,

We are here, seeking you.

Step by step, we have wandered into this space¹

With the hope of feeling you in our midst.

And step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us.

With a mouth full of praise for the ways in which you have been present to us.

With hearts full to the brim,

Together we pray, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

What Star is This

BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. Lloyd Larson

Upcoming Gatherings

- **Worship at DCC**, *Sundays* at 9:30am
<https://zoom.us/j/492975948?pwd=bJqZTNpNGo3S1o0YkNFM3FWQ1dlQT09>
or by Zoom app: **492 975 948**, password **322** or by phone: dial **669-900-6833** and enter **492 975 948** as the Meeting ID and **322** as the password.

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

Associate Pastor

John Kendall Bailey

Music Director

Mary-Marie Deauclaire

Handbell Director

Elizabeth Setlak-von Thury

Office Manager

Nicole Doyle

Nursery Attendant

The **DCC Prayer Team** prays daily for those in need of prayers.
If you would like to submit a prayer request for yourself or someone else,
contact a pastor or send an email to prayers@danvillechurch.org.
All requests are kept confidential unless specified otherwise.

Sonna Dhamrait, Dayspring Preschool Director

dayspringpreschool.org

Black Trans Lives Matter
Black Queer Lives Matter
Black Women Matter
Black Men Matter
Black Disabled People Matter
Black Children Matter
Black Undocumented People Matter
BLACK LIVES MATTER



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, CA 94526-4020

Phone: (925) 837-6944

danvillechurch.org

