

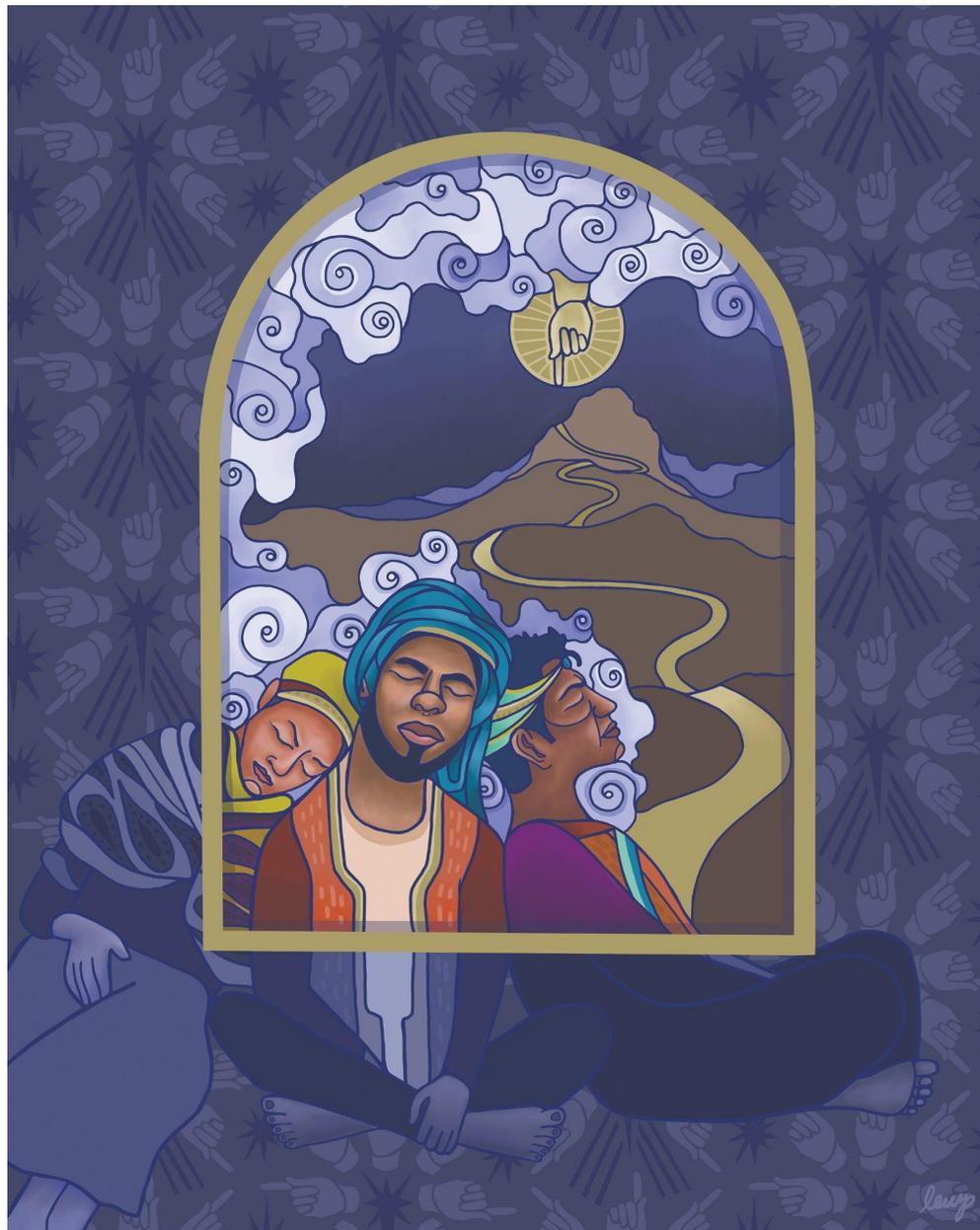


REJOICE FELLOWSHIP

A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worshipping at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090
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January 9, 2022 | 10:00 am

Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany of our Lord

C: indicates spoken responses by the congregation

P: indicates the Presiding Minister

A: indicates the Assisting Minister

Welcome to worship with Rejoice Fellowship! Helpful instructions for various parts of our worship will be included throughout this bulletin at relevant places.

✠ Gathering ✠

WELCOME

PRELUDE

You are invited to type your prayers into the Facebook Live chat window. These prayers will be read aloud later in the service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We come to this place—

A: each of us on our own path.

P: The path is winding,

A: and the path is not always clear,

P: and the path changes,

A: but we are here.

P: God is walking us home.

A: What a gift it is to not walk alone.

P: Let us worship Holy God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C: God of changed plans, the Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news:

A: No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

GATHERING SONG

I'M GOING ON A JOURNEY

1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My
head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;
it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It
real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's
been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.

3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll
keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way
I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

P: Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs. You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it? Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, so we are listening. Gratefully we pray,

C: Amen.

✠ Word ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.

²Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the Lord will shine upon you;
God's glory will appear over you.

³Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look all around:
they are all gathered; they have come to you.

Your sons will come from far away,
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.

⁵Then you will see and be radiant;
your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
the nations' wealth will come to you.

⁶Countless camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.

They will all come from Sheba,
carrying gold and incense,
proclaiming the Lord's praises._(CEB)

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A: Let us praise and give thanks for the living Word: Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route._(CEB)

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MADDIE TALLMAN

MUSICAL REFLECTION

JAN BRENNAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition:

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another by typing it into the Facebook Live chat window.

✠Meal✠

CALL TO OFFERING

Rejoice Fellowship is blessed by your generosity! Tithes and offerings can be given in a few ways: 1) electronically by clicking here: <https://tithe.ly/widget/v3/give.js?3>; 2) electronically by scanning the QR code at right to visit our donation page; and 3) physical checks/cash can be mailed to our office at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090. Thank you for opening your heart!



PRAYER OF OFFERING

A: God of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves, to hold it tight, to tuck it away, but just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice. Instead, we give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one another, we will see a better world. So take these gifts and use them for your good. With hope we pray, amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Almighty God, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever... And so we pray and praise:

C: Amen, amen and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's manger, under the bright shining star, at Christ's table, and at your table, come, see what God makes known for you.

We invite you to gather your own bread and wine or juice to receive the sacrament with us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✠Sending ✠

BLESSING

P: As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed — so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation — God, Spirit, and Son — go in peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: John Henry Hopkins (1857)

Ma - gi from a far - a - way place
Threat - ened by the good news they bring
Plans that change and storms that de - lay

Ra - diant star - light set-ting their pace Ford - ing wa - di,
Her - od plots to kill the new king An - gels warn - ing
Dreams and hopes left in dis - ar - ray Make us trem - ble,

risk - ing bo - dy Seek-ing the king's birth place
in the mor - ning: "A-void Je - ru - sa lem"
but re-mem - ber There is a - noth - er way

We have trav - eled night and day
 Meet - ing God where - e'er we stay Paths are chan - ging,
 re - ar - ran - ging As we find a - noth - er way

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders

Thank you to all who serve!

Date	Assisting Minister	Camera Person	Altar Preparer
1/9/22	Gale Krol	Brian Hudgins	Gale Krol
1/16/22	Lisa Stokes	David Rinker	Joanna Heldreth
1/23/22	Alyce Cohen	Mike Fitzcharles	Alyce Cohen

Thank you also to our musicians: Jan Brennan and Tyler Ridenour!

What's Happening This Week

Sun., January 9	Worship - 10am on FB Live
Mon., January 10	
Tues., January 11	
Wed., January 12	Youth Group - 7-8:30pm on Zoom
Thurs., January 13	
Fri., January 14	
Sat., January 15	