A silhouette of a caravan of camels and riders against a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong glow and lens flare. The camels and riders are dark against the light sky.

And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.
— Matthew 2:9b

January 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday

Three Kings Day

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE	“Walloon Rhapsody” (Ferrari)	Henry Repp
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Kathleen Meredith
God is with us as a new year begins.		
We bring our bright possibilities and lingering questions.		
Like Mary and Joseph, may we trust God guiding us forward.		
We bring open hearts and discerning minds.		
Like God did for Jesus and his family, may God make a home for us.		
We bring our relationships and stories, knowing God is in them.		
Let’s pay attention to where God is showing up!		
*OPENING HYMN	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	UMH 224
*OPENING PRAYER (unison)		Kathleen Meredith
Lord, your guidance calls us out of comfortable spaces into the unknown. Those comfortable spaces seem safe, but you know they limit our possibility. Help us to trust in you, to seek you out, to turn to you in every moment with every thing. May you continue to come among us, shaking up our lives and shaking up the world.		
Amen.		
CHOIR ANTHEM	“The Three Kings” (Cornelius)	Chancel Choir
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Rev. Lattig
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON		Rev. Lattig
SCRIPTURE READING		Kathleen Meredith

Matthew 2:7-23

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹ After this interview the wise men went on their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

¹³ After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

¹⁶ Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. ¹⁷ Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A cry was heard in Ramah—
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted,
for they are dead.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²² But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³ So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word.

ANTHEM	“The Shepherds” (Kook)	Chancel Choir
SERMON	“God Found in Impossible Places”	Rev. Lattig
HOLY COMMUNION	(see insert)	
OFFERTORY	“He Shall Reign Forevermore” (Maher)	Praise Band

You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Kathleen Meredith

God of love and abundance, as we enter this new year full of possibilities and hope, we give you thanks. We lift up to you our offerings that you would bless them and increase them, so that the good news of Jesus Christ will be spread far and beyond this place. We pray this with committed and hopeful hearts in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (2 times) UMH 204

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE “Fiat Lux” (Dubois) Henry Repp

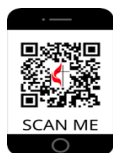
Today’s Worship Leaders

Pastor
Liturgist
Organist/Music Director
Praise Band

Rev. Todd Lattig
Kathleen Meredith
Henry Repp
Christie Spriggs, leader
Debbie Seebeck
Jay Morrison
Evelyn Cornwell
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison

Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

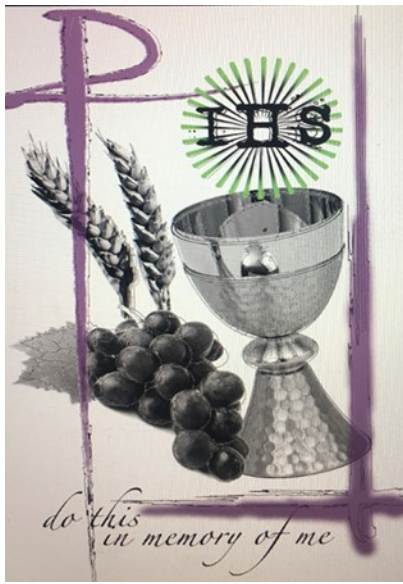
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Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

