



**United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401**

**Service of Word for Epiphany Sunday
10:00am – January 5, 2025**

The Reverend Susan McGhee
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Ohio Valley

812-332-1850

www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Benjamin Watkins, piano

* CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER *Isaiah 60:1; 2 Corinthians 13:13*

Deacon Andy Hill, Liturgist

Liturgist: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

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

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us pray: Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor.
The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night
that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace.
May his brightness illumine our lives
and beckon us to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

* HYMN No. 40 *Joy to the World!*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: In penitence and faith, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**People: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your grace,
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord; forgive us and heal us,
that we may live in your light and walk in your ways;
to the glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

-- all pray in silence.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Liturgist: In this day, fresh-made,
let us delight in God's goodness and be ready to start anew.
Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Liturgist: I invite you to share the peace of Christ with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist: Your grace, O God, has dawned upon the world
with healing for all humankind.
Shine on our lives and in our hearts this day
through the reading and proclamation of your Word
that we may reflect your glory; through Christ the Lord. Amen.



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 60:1-6* – Liturgist

THE GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12* – Pastor

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

A Journey and a Gift

Rev. McGhee

* **HYMN No. 68**

What Star is This, with Beams So Bright

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)**

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF OUR TREASURE

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Presentation of Gifts, *sung by all (Greensleeves)* –

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come, one and all, to own Him.
 The King of kings, salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!

*Prayer of Dedication

* **HYMN NO. 63** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Susan McGhee

THE POSTLUDE Benjamin Watkins, piano

**Please stand if you are able.*

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

The UPC Congregation as they embark on the first Sunday of their 192nd year

Bob Hammel Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine

Our military men and women stationed around the world

The UPC Session as they seek a part-time Pastor for our congregation

Prayers of gratitude and safety for our First Responders

For the New Year

Eternal God, a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night.

As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always,

that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen. *The Book of Common Worship (2018), pg 202*



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