

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Celebrating Epiphany**

January 5, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Ceaseless Praise* – Anthony Giamanco

Call to Worship

The glory of God has now appeared
through Christ our light, in flesh.

The reign of God has now arrived
through Christ our king, our eternal ruler.

The mystery of God has been revealed
through Christ our peace, ever reconciling.

With the stars to lead us and the magi to teach us,
we come, bringing our gifts to worship God. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O star-flinging God, You lead us ever gently toward your promise. In unlikely ways and through unlikely people, you are always appearing in our midst, bringing greater revelations. Teach us this day to pay attention. Grant us softness of heart, so that we don't miss your appearance. Bring us into a deeper knowledge of you as we worship and seek you on this feast of Epiphany. Amen.

Sequence of Confession and Lament

Lord Jesus Christ, you are always arriving in our world. You are always appearing in our midst. You are always making your ways and your will known among your people.

Forgive us for remaining distracted and dissatisfied. Forgive us for filling our lives with clutter and noise. Forgive us for failing to heed your call. Help us in this season to remain alert and attentive, that we might not miss your invitations for and among us. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The One who formed us and keeps us in love is compassionate toward God's children. Rest in this promise: As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed your sins from you. Receive the gift of holy compassion this day.

In the season of Epiphany we remember the waters of baptism that claim us and remind us that in life and death, we belong to God. We remember our call to a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples, to unmask idolatries, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work for justice, freedom, and peace as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth together. Amen.

Meditation: *A Moment of Peace* – John Turner

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list

Worship leader will lead the prayers. When you hear the prompt, "God of grace," respond with "Receive our prayer."

Prayers of the People

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world.

God of grace. **Receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1 – 6.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1 - 12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1 – 12

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *What Will You Give Him?* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Meditation: *Let Us Break Bread* – Paul Taylor

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God, who appears in our midst.

To the One who welcomes us to the table,

we give thanks and praise.

... We lift our hearts in joyful praise and join our voices with believers from every time and place, singing your glory:

Holy, holy, holy one, God of justice and love,

Word made flesh and born among us!

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these elements, that our eyes may be opened and our spirits softened, that our hearts might burn within us as you offer this bread and cup among us.

Amen.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Let us pray:

**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**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry;

believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life, reminders of your presence that linger in our bodies and ignite our spirits. Remind us today that your love feeds us and your life strengthens us. Commission us now to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved, and to live as the church that Christ dreamed of. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Benediction

Go in Peace, Live in Love, Serve the Lord.

Postlude: *Postlude in d minor* – Lani Smith

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