

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

January 1, 2012

New Year's Day ~ Epiphany Observed

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Ben Heizer, Minister of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

He Is Born

Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Isaiah 60: 1, 3; John 1: 4-5, 9; Luke 2: 30-32;

1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2: 11, 13; Psalm 98: 2, 3b

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

P: In [Christ] was life, and the life was the light of humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that enlightens every person was coming into the world.

L: My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

P: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

L: For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people, [and we are] awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

P: The LORD has made known his victory, he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God!

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Eternal Father, by a star you led magi to worship your Son, the light of the world. Fill the world with your glory, and reveal yourself to all the nations; we pray through him who is the true light, and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Sing We Now of Christmas

#275

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and our pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us anew with the Holy Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory, shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ Titus 2: 13c-14; Colossians 1: 13-14

L: Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us, to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify for himself a people of his own, who are zealous for good deeds.

P: God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

CHILDREN'S LESSON (*Preschool through 2nd grade children may be led to Junior Church following the children's message. Older children's bulletins are in the vestibule.*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 60: 1-7 ~ Pages 639-640 in the pew Bible

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 2: 1-12 ~ Pages 835-836 in the pew Bible

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and found out from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and

worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

***HYMN** *We Three Kings* #288

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Ephesians 3: 1-12 ~ Page 1018 in the pew Bible

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles – assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to all people in other times as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all people see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose which God has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “Epiphany: God Is Revealed to the Gentiles” Rev. Frank Wyche

***HYMN** *The First Noel* #265

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (...debtors/debtors...)

***HYMN** *As with Gladness Men of Old* #290

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Ben Heizer, Minister of Music

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



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