

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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*Our Mission: Shining God's light by ...
Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads.*

Sunday, January 7, 2024
9:30 am
Baptism of the Lord

PRELUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH CANDLES

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

We observed his star in the East, and have come to pay him homage.

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

***Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

2. Born a King of Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. ***Refrain***
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity neigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. ***Refrain***
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. ***Refrain***
5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. ***Refrain***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.
This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN’S SERMON

CHILDREN’S PRAYER RESPONSE

We are Marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2024

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Page 1, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What Child Is This”

Howard Helvey

SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

Page 32, NT

*HYMN NO. 482

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God’s praises we sing.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God’s praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God’s children;
joyfully now God’s praises we sing.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Holy are you, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior... we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Trinity Holy in One. Amen

CONSECRATION

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now, God sends us out by a different road than walked by those of Herod's way. May we find those who have been left by the side of Herod's world. Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road. May we bring grace to all who are lonely and frightened. Now, the Spirit illumines a different road. So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand to walk redeemed, forgiven and with grace to share. Amen

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 584

"I Am the Light of the World"

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Refrain: I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!

***If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

1. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: ***Refrain***
2. To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above! ***Refrain***
3. To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and good will,
to see all God's children everywhere! ***Refrain***
4. To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colors of the earth! ***Refrain***

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"We Three Kings"

Gordon Young

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer

✠ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✠ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org