



Seventh & James Baptist Church
January 8, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“The Three Kings”

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“The First Noel”

Traditional Carol

Processional Hymn, No. 150

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Litany of Chasing Stars

Scott Turner

One: We marvel at men who would be so passionate about prophecy that they would follow the light of a star across the known world to meet a new king.

Many: Open our eyes to your guiding light.

One: They came bearing gifts and stayed sensitive to your guidance even as it changed from starlight to a warning in a dream.

Many: Help us to follow, even when the way changes.

One: We want to chase our dreams with the same kind of intensity as these faithful Magi, but so often we are tethered by self-doubt, practical considerations, and fear.

All: God, help us to follow your light wherever it may lead us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scott Turner

Many: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

One: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

Many: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

One: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Many: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

One: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

Many: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

One: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

All: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Anthem

“Arise and Shine, Your Light Has Come”

John Purifoy

Arise and shine, your Light has come, and the glory of God now rises upon you!

Lift your eyes for His joy appears as bright as the morning dawn.

Arise and shine for your Light has come. You shall see and be not afraid.

All the wonder of nature will sing and proclaim now the praise of the Lord!

Light of the world, into our hearts let thy glory shine.

That we may follow now thy star until we reach thy shrine.

Light of the world, we worship thee. Our gifts to thee we bring!

Accept our grateful hearts, O Lord, while praises to thee forevermore we sing!

Sermon

“Rich Variety!”

Erin Conaway

(Ephesians 3:1-12)

Silent Reflection

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself. That is what our life in community is about. Each of us is like a little stone,

but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Community is where humility and glory touch.

— Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*, May 3

Hymn of Commitment, No. 165

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God’s grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Response

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Kathleen Thomerson

Postlude

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

J.S. Bach