



**Seventh & James Baptist Church  
January 5, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.  
The Epiphany of the Lord**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“Es ist ein Ros’ entspringen”  
(Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming)

Johannes Brahms

**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

The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**Processional Hymn, No. 150**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

**Litany of Chasing Stars**

Katie Cook

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** Katie Cook

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 60:1-6* Sean Sutcliffe

**Epistle Reading** *Ephesians 3:1-12* Paula Hoover

**Hymn, No. 151** “We Three Kings”

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 2:1-12* Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People** Scott Turner

**Offertory** “Lead, Kindly Light” (LUX BENIGNA)  
Dale Wood

*During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God’s call.*

**Doxology**

*(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

### Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.  
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

### Responsive Reading of Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Daniel Farris

One: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**Many: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

One: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**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****“Shine on Us”**

arr. Bruce Greer

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us.  
Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night: let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us.  
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night: let Your grace fall on us.

Lord, let Your love, love with no end, come over us.  
Lord, let Your love, love with no end, come over us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life  
To find our way in the darkest night:  
Let Your love come over us, let Your grace fall on us,  
Let Your light shine on us.

**Sermon****“Follow the Light Wherever It Shines”**

Erin Conaway

*(Matthew 2:1-12)***Silent Reflection**

*Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of birth,  
the herald of the new day you are making,  
a day of great joy dawning in yet faint shafts of light and love.  
I hear whispers of peace in the stillness,  
fresh breezes of promise stirring,  
winter sparrows chirping of life,  
a baby's cry of need and hope — Christmas!  
In the darkness I see the light and find in it comfort,  
confidence cause for celebration,  
for the darkness cannot overcome it;  
And I rejoice to nourish it in myself, in other people, in the world  
for the sake of him in whom it was born and shines forever,  
even Jesus the Christ.*

— Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*

## 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 Benediction “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

J.S. Bach

O Morning Star, how fair and bright. Thou beamest forth in truth and light!  
O Sovereign meek and lowly. Thou Root of Jesse, David’s Son,  
My Lord and Master, Thou has won my heart to serve Thee solely!  
Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,  
Rule and might o’er all possessing.

## Postlude

“Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light”

J.S. Bach

## Today at Seventh

**Our Pianist today** is Jim Williams.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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