

# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

**January 3, 2021**

The Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany Observed

Live streamed online Only

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** Star in the East (Southern Harmony) arr. Susan Steppe

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 56** The First Nowell The First Nowell

## Opening Sentences

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:** **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**Prayer for the Day** (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)  
Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

## Prayer of Confession

Unison

**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 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, that, baptized with your Spirit,  
forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

## Silent Prayers of Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 69**      O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright    Wie Schön Leuchtet

**Pastor:**      The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:**      **And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace** (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

**Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament**

Isaiah 60:1-6

**Psalm 72:1-7,11-13**

Unison

**Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son.**

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

**May the mountains yield prosperity for the people in righteousness.**

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

**May he live while the sun endures,  
as long as the moon through all generations.**

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

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

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute.**

**May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

**May all kings fall down before him,  
for he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor, and those who have no helper.**

**He has pity on the weak and saves the lives of the needy.**

**Bell Interlude**      We Three Kings of Orient Are

John Henry Hopkins, 1857; arr. Linda R. Lamb  
Rosemary Gordon, Becky Stirling, hand bells; Susan Steppe, organ

**Epistle**

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon****Strangers Bearing Gifts**

Mike Krech

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”  
Matthew 2:11

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 68** What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright Puer Nobis Nascitur

**Apostles' Creed** Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

**Gloria in Excelsis** Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

**Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication**

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

**Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory** Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

John Schop, 1641; harm. J. S. Bach, 1734

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592**

Old Hundredth

**Benediction**

**Hymn 63** As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

**Postlude** Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Lauda Anima)

John Goss, 1869; arr. Don Wyrzten

**Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.**

Today we conclude the Christmas cycle with the arrival of the Wise Men, as recorded in Matthew 2, fulfilling a vision seen in Isaiah 60 and Psalm 72. The worship of the Magi “from the East” (most likely Persia) is testimony that the gift of Christ is for all people.

JMK