

January 2, 2022
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.



Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

People: We have received in faith that which you, O Lord, have promised.

Leader: Emmanuel: God with us, God in us, revealed to us.

People: Our souls rejoice in the salvation of the Lord.

Leader: The Lord will be our everlasting light and glory.

People: Praise and glory be to you, now and forevermore.

Prayer:

On this day, Earth does ring. We stand at the center of history and the center of time. We stand with the poor who have long awaited their deliverance. We stand with all those for whom there is no room in any inn – and know that their shelter is now assured. We stand with the brokenhearted, knowing that Jesus Christ is Lord and that no circumstance can separate us from the love of God. All this – and more, in the form of a child! Thanks be to you, Almighty God, before whom even the valleys are made strong and the mountains humbled. Amen.

Hymn – We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

UMH 254. John H. Hopkins.

Prayer Time & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem – *As With Gladness, Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

William C. Dix; Conrad Kocher, arr. by John Leavitt.

Gospel Lesson – John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all

people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.

The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.

But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

Message – Clinging to Light

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn – *We Would See Jesus*

We would see Jesus; lo! His star is shining above the stable where the angels sing;
there in a manger on the hay reclining; haste, let us lay our gifts before the King.

We would see Jesus, Mary's most holy, light of the village life from day to day;
shining revealed through every task most lowly,
the Christ of God, the life, the truth, the way.

We would see Jesus, on the mountain teaching,
with all the listening people gathered round;
while birds and flowers and sky above are preaching
the blessedness which simple trust has found.

We would see Jesus, in his work of healing, at eventide before the sun was set;

divine and human, in his deep revealing of God made flesh, in loving service met.

We would see Jesus, in the early morning, still as of old he calleth, "Follow me!"

Let us arise, all meaner service scorning; Lord, we are thine, we give ourselves to thee.

UMH 256. J. Edgar Park, Herbert B. Turner.

Blessing & Sending Out

Forward to Share Our Offerings

Out to Serve the Lord

What to know this week...

You are invited to prepare a card or note for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day! If you bring your card or note to the church office by January 5, we will deliver them for you! Take a moment to show appreciation for the hard work undertaken by these public servants. Thank you!

St. James UMC is happy to announce the return of our sign-up for weekly altar flowers – now digitally! You may sign up on any 2022 date (beginning January 16) to provide live, fresh flowers on the sanctuary altar for the Sunday worship service. Please visit www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e48a4aa2da2F85-2022, review the available dates, and click on the button to sign up. Add any additional information to honor or remember someone, and that information will be shared in the order of worship. All arrangements and payments must be made 2 weeks prior directly with John's Flowers at 919-266-1397. Flowers should be collected or disposed of by the donor at the end of worship. Flowers will be provided only on weeks when someone has signed up. The SignUp is open now – grab your preferred date before it's gone! If you need assistance signing up online, contact Martha in the church office (919-876-5796 or office@stjamesraleigh.org) during regular office hours.