

# *Celebration of Worship*

## *The Second Sunday After Epiphany*

January 14, 2018

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

### ***Verses for Contemplation***

*“But, if you seek God, your God, you’ll be able to find him if you’re serious, looking for the Lord with your whole heart and soul. When troubles come and all these awful things happen to you, in future days you will come back to God, your God, and listen obediently to what he says. God, your God, is above all a compassionate God. In the end God will not abandon you, and won’t bring you to ruin. God won’t forget the covenant sworn to your ancestors and made with them.”*

*Deuteronomy 4:29-33, The Message (MSG)*

### ***God Invites Us to Worship***

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *And the Song Was of the Morning* Martin

### ***We Offer Praise***

INTROIT *Simple Gifts* arr. Thompson  
Chimers

OPENING SENTENCES

CALL TO WORSHIP *Come Let Us Worship God* Sung responsively

*Come, let us worship God; welcome everyone to the love of God.*

*\* Food for the Hungry      \* Drink for the thirsty*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

\* Please stand, if you are able.

\* SONG *As the Deer* Insert

GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

### ***God Shows Grace and Forgiveness***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon God while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts.

**All: We will return to the Lord, that God may have mercy on us; to our Savior, for God will abundantly pardon.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in Silence)*

GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

Leader: Through Christ we are forgiven. Let us continually seek our God for we will be found!

**All: Your face, O God, do we seek. Fill us with your Spirit.**

### ***God Speaks With a Heart of Love***

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Prayer

*(Children in Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)*

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 2:1-3* CEB

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12* CEB/MSG

SERMON *Seekers*

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

### ***We Respond in Re-Dedication***

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT (in unison) *Psalms 42:1-5, CEB*

Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God’s face? My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, “Where’s your God now?”

But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one’s abode, to God’s own house, with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs – a huge crowd celebrating the festival!

Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God.

\* SONG *Seek Ye First* # 333

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Carol of the Star* arr. Moore

Chancel Choir

A star, a shining star, led wise men on their way  
To find that Bethlehem town where lay a holy babe.  
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

A star, a guiding star led angels from above  
To seek a tiny babe, surround Him with their love.  
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

A star, a mighty star did shine o'er all the earth  
To welcome Him with joy, proclaim His wondrous birth.  
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\* SENDING SONG *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* Insert

(Sing 3 times: 1<sup>st</sup> time, Choir; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> times, All)

***God Sends Us Out to Serve***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\* POSTLUDE *Toccata Breve* Broughton