

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God
sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain.

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Response:** "Shalom"

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom,
Kami no mi megumi.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with
grace from God.)*

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom,
yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly,
abundantly.)*

Postlude Haruko Sakakibara

"Sonatina in C Major" by Heinrich Lichner Op.49, No 1

*We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music
and God's presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so.*

Go with God's blessings.

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Ushers:	Terri Bowman, Julie Chew
Parking Barriers (Sat):	Dave McGill
Parking:	Gary Younglove
Sound System:	Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers:	William & Judy Yee



The Celebration of Worship

January 5, 2025 • Epiphany Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Betsy Eskridge
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Haruko Sakakibara
Communion Elders:	Carla Hart, Pattie Hashimoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

Divine Glimmer -

The strands of lights are unbooked from the eavestroughs,

And the metallic garland removed from tree's branches.

January's shadows prevail when Christmas is removed.

Yet you are the Great Light.

When the brightness of Christmas has been erased from our sight,

The Epiphany glow in our souls brightens.

May the Epiphany Glow expand from our hearts

to reach our neighbors burting from the cold nights,

short days, and seasonal silence.

*May the Epiphany Glow draw us together even greater than the parties of
December and the hustle of Advent.*

*May the Epiphany Glow kindle kindness, knowing that the Christ is
present in our midst, as you, Holy Light, are eager to build your bright
realm in our shadowed world. Amen.*

- Rev. Michell Torigian

** Those who can, please stand*

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***Introit**

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

People: The glory of the Christ our Lord, the bright morning star, has risen upon us.

Leader: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. As the sun climbs from the horizon,

People: God's presence lingers with us.

Leader: As the clouds mask the sun's warmth,

People: God's presence remains with us.

All: We come to worship Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

***Opening Hymn: The First Nowell (#56)**

Sing verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

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.

Refrain. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Opportunity To Present Offerings

All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.

***Doxology**

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Betsy Eskridge

Joys & Concerns Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

The Lord's Prayer Congregation

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Sending Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (#29)**

Refrain. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
“The Real Presence”

Matthew 2:9-12

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Musical Interlude Haruko Sakakibara
“Glorify Thy Name” by Donna W.Adkins

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Refrain.

This star drew nigh to the northwest; O’er Bethlehem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain.

Then entered in those wise men three, fell reverently upon their knee, and offered there in His presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain.

Invitation to Confession Betsy Eskridge

Leader: May God kindle our hearts made cold by the world’s frostiness, and brighten the road ahead as we ponder what is most important in our lives. Let’s bring our wonderings and wanderings, our faults and failings to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Guiding Star of Holy Light, we have blocked Your light and love from our neighbors. We have barricaded the Divine glow which enlightens and empowers all of us. We have turned our backs on the gleam of Your wisdom, God. Forgive us.

People: Yet no matter how far we flee, You never hide Your light from us. Your light still flows near. Encourage us to open doors and shutters to Your brilliance so that Your holy illumination will reach our souls.

All: May Your enlightenment bring us closer to You and to Your intentions for this good earth. Amen.

A Time for Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God’s Grace Betsy Eskridge

Leader: God’s warmth melts our hardened hearts. God’s brilliance lights the path on which we will start again. We embrace God’s luminosity as we start on this new year journey.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose
Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

All Sing: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace** Betsy Eskridge

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us
share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ
be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection:** What Child Is This (#53)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch
are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing; haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of
Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is
pleading.

Refrain.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to
own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts
enthroned Him.

Refrain.

Unison Prayer of Guidance

**All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations
of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the
response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and
our Redeemer. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Japanese Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-3 Haruko Sakakibara

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord
has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth
and deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you
and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your
light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-8 Betsy Eskridge

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—
this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived
in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we
find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We
observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're
on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—
and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost
no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars
in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed
to be born?" They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The
prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,

no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader

who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from
the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them
to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared.
Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said,
"Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you
find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."