

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.

***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

“Concerto A major, 2nd movement” (KV 622) by Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)

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:** Judy Fukuman, Bill Grissom
- Ushers:** Mieko Davis, Judy Fukuman
- Parking:** Tak Fukuman
- Sound System:** Titus Toyama
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Lois Van Beers
- Altar Flowers:** Jonathan & Haruko Sakakibara



The Celebration of Worship

January 4, 2026 • Epiphany Sunday

- Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
- Worship Leader:** Donna Komure-Toyama
- Pianist:** Haruko Sakakibara
- Choir Conductor:** Ben Pryor
- Japanese Reader:** Mieko Davis
- YES:** Julie Chew, Cathy Nishizaki

Centering Prayer for Advent Worship

Holy One, we follow the star of Your love for us, for You call us to travel with each other, to worship Your Son and bring Him our gifts. Like the Wise Ones, we come looking for Christ, and for the grace to see Him in others. As we worship, we bring You our gratitude and praise and seek to be led by Your Spirit. We welcome Your presence with us in Word and Sacrament, and thank You for sending Your Beloved Son Who reveals Your loving heart to all the world. Amen.

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

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

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

People: We have heard of Your Light, Bright Star of the morning; which can illumine the shadows of our lives; which can reveal the path to Your heart;

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

All: Let's go with all the peoples of the nations to worship Christ the newborn King!

*Opening Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (#22)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen His natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: By a bright star God led the Wise Ones to worship Jesus, the Light of the world. In Him, God's grace has dawned upon the world with healing for all creation. Let's bring the shadowed areas and wanderings of our lives to the light of Christ and pray together.

*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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Donna Komure-Toyama

Pastoral Prayer & 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: The First Nowell (#56)

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.

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.

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 enthrone
Him.

Refrain.

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.

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.

Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Gracious, guiding God, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We're easily distracted and confused, and lose our way in life. We fail to follow the faithful signs and nudges you provide.

People: God of glory, You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to reveal Your love for all people. Sometimes our discomfort and fear of other people's beliefs and behaviors convinces us that we don't need to share Your grace with them. Forgive us.

All: Empowered by Your Spirit, lead us from our comfort zones to step out in faith and service this new year. Open our hearts and lives to You and each other as we share Your love with a hurting world.

A Time for Silent Contemplation

Assurance of God's Grace

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Guiding star of Holy Light; we have experienced grace: Your Spirit is at work in us, setting us free from shame and despair.

People: Holy Lord, thank You for forgiving us and sending us to proclaim Your goodness and glory to all.

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

Donna Komure-Toyama

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 go to YES.

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.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Mieko Davis

Jeremiah 29:13

The Lord spoke through the prophet Jeremiah: “For I know the plans that I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”

2nd Scripture Reading

Donna Komure-Toyama

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Longing for Light”

Matthew 2:1-12

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.” 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

“Träumerei” (“Dreaming”) by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

*Communion Hymn: 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!