

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

January 2, 2005

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday After Christmas
(readings from January 6th, Epiphany)

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“Christmas Joy”

C.P.E. Bach

The Call To Worship

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

**Lift up your eyes and look around;
sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.**
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.
**They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

The Prayer of Praise

Merciful God of deliverance, we praise you for sending Jesus as Light for the nations. He is the glory and radiance of your compassion and care. Our eyes behold the brightness of your promised righteousness; you illumine our darkness with the hope of your justice. As generations before us, we stand in awe of your splendor. We bow down to worship you, lifting our voices in praise of your goodness and giving heed to your instruction.

*The Hymn 46

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

*The Prayer of Confession

Source of salvation and Bringer of light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In him you have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care little for this planet, which you in goodness created for our habitation. In mercy forgive us, and help us to amend our ways. . . (time for silent confession).

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

God's Word of forgiveness, like the star followed by Magi,
leads us rejoicing into Christ's presence,
to worship the One God sent to redeem the world.
God's Word to all is this:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

p. 639 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 72:1-7,10-14*

p. 504 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

"The Christ Child"
Felicia Hibbeler, Soprano

Peter Cornelius

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Ephesians 3:1-12* p. 1018 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 68

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 2:1-12*

p. 835 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

"The Fourth Magus"
The Rev. Erin C. Sharp

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Nicene Creed*

p. 15 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

O God, as wise rulers of old brought gifts and worshipped a newly born baby, so also we bring offerings in praise of him whom you sent. The star that we follow is the light of Christ's teachings, calling us to be faithful in service to all in need. Accept what we earn, the products of our creative energy and talent. Let this be the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that we bring. By our gifts may a sad and needy world be enriched and comforted.

GO IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 40

"Joy to the World!"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude