

# Epiphany

January 4, 2015 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

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## Welcome

## \*Passing the Peace

## Prelude

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: When the wise men had heard King Herod, they went their way;

**People: And lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was.**

Leader: Let us continue our journey of following where God leads,

**People: Until we come to the place where the child is.**

## \*Opening Hymn #220

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

## \*Centering Prayer

God of all the worlds that are: Like the wise men coming from far away, we would see that guiding star. We would follow them while they follow its light to the manger. There lies the little boy whom you appointed as bearer of your compassion and redeemer of all who would acknowledge their need of redemption. May the brightness of your Son illumine our path as we strive to live as children of light. May your Word made flesh guide us through all the dark stretches and dark hours of our lives so that in your own good time, we may be welcomed, by your mercy, into the heavenly Jerusalem where there is no night, ever. To this end let this hour of worship prepare us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## Sermon

“An Epiphany about Epiphany”  
Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT)

Rev. Bates

## Invitation

## Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness and a star in every sky, and yet we prefer to walk in the darkness of despair and worry. We cover over the light of possibility with a flurry of worry. We walk bent over with care and concern and miss the reach of the stars. We fear the worst and distrust the best. We forge ahead on our own, not noticing your outstretched hand. We forget that there is never a moment that you are not with us, that your Son was called Immanuel, which means "God with us" You bring a candle of hope, the light of peace, the radiance of joy.

Shine your light on our path and walk with us through all our valleys with the sun at our backs. *(continue to pray in silence)*

## Offering & Offertory

*Solo*

*Michayla Bacon, flute*

## \*Doxology (#94)

## The Great Thanksgiving (UMH pg. 17)

## The Lord's Prayer

## Sharing of the Bread & Cup

## Prayer After Receiving

How grateful we are for this family meal you have prepared for us, most gracious God. As we have gathered around your table, might we be open to receiving the gift of your love in the food we have shared. Let it nourish us when we feel depleted, sustain us when times are difficult, comfort us when we are sorrowful and enhance our joys when our cups overflow. Let it be that the meal we have shared will enable us to nurture others through the gift of this bread of life. For the meal we have eaten, O God, make us truly thankful. Amen.

## \*Closing Hymn #254

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

## \*Benediction

## \*Postlude

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*\*Please Stand As You Are Able*