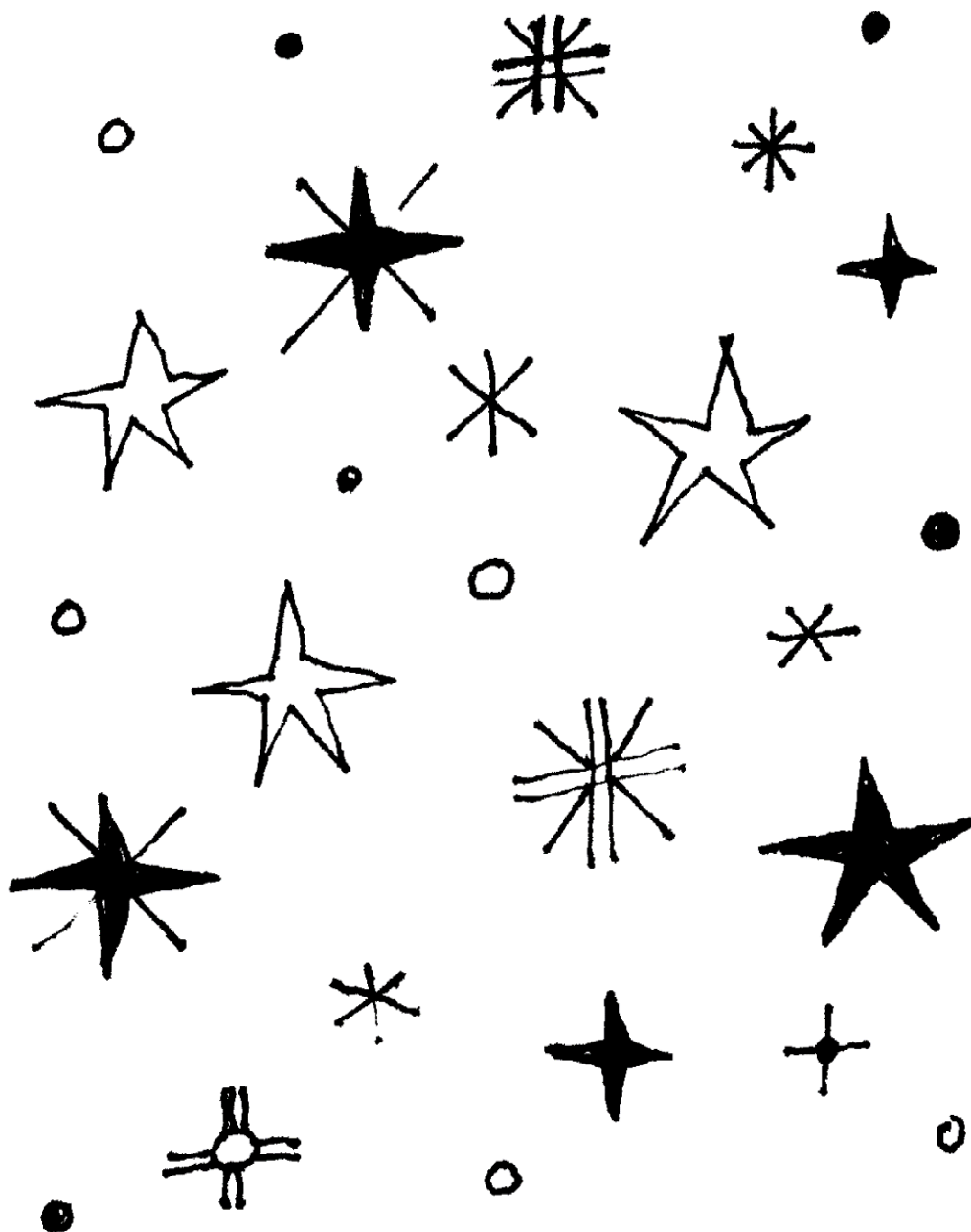


Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: [YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



January 7, 2024
Epiphany

Sidenotes are back! On these grey spaces you will find explanations, quips, info, and fun.

Everything you need to sing, speak and participate in this worship is in the bulletin.

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We begin today with a word of confession, as a way of centering ourselves in God's grace. Confession can also be a great daily practice in this New Year of letting go and learning.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *Partita on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star", part I*
Jan Bender

Welcome

****Please stand as you are able****

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our hope.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Epiphany is a feast day—or a celebration day. We celebrate the journey of the star and the Magi to the baby Jesus. A revelation and miracle of God.

We will receive our star words today, a parallel for our year of “following stars.”

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, soften our hearts with hope.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the faith to trust in you and one another.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth are filled with the salvation of God.

Amen.

****Please stand as you are able****

***Gathering Hymn** *Come Beloved of the Maker* ELW 306
(printed on the next pages)

***Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

Eternal God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, that we might be bearers of your light for all people, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Come, Beloved of the Maker



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -
 2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those
 3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low
 4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -
 5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's
 bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in
 to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of
 splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and
 glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.
 wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."
 an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.
 height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.
 splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957
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The Word

Reading

2 Timothy 1:5-10

This reading from Timothy is another encouragement, in this New Year, a time of year when we consider our disciplines for the year. What are you focusing on personally? Faithfully this year?

+++

As you listen, underline the emotions in these verses. And notice who is feeling them.

Have you ever considered the many layers of fear that are in the first verses? Fear as in terror and also fear as in awe or reverence.

⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

****Please stand as you are able****

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

*The gifts
presented to
Jesu's parents
were kingly gifts,
rooted deeply in
the Hebrew
Bible. The Magi
know deeply the
wonder and
power of this
baby!*

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pastor Sara

***Song of the Day** *When a Star is Shining*

(printed on the next pages)

When a Star Is Shining



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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The bigger stars
are for the little
kids, we hope all of
you will take one!
And, they glow in
the dark! If you
can't read the
beautiful
calligraphy just
ask your neighbor
for help
interpreting.

Deep gratitude for
all that you do to
support the
ministries and
programs of this
congregation!

Offering is an act
of worship that
reminds us where
our security
resides---with
God.

Receiving our Star Words

*Blessing our Star Words

Holy God, **You have given us an Epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

We give one another a word of peace, in the same way Jesus did when he appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room. As we share peace with one another, feel free to share your star words with one another as well.

Offering

Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...



The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white. Please be welcome here!

If you chose to not receive communion, you can come up for a blessing instead. If you choose to be blessed, simply cross your arms over your chest so we know.

The sending portion of the service is meant to prepare us for leaving and sharing what we have learned and experienced in worship.

The Meal

****Please stand as you are able****

***Words of Institution**

***Invitation to Receive Communion**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, welcomes everyone (and we mean everyone!) to this table. No matter one's race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, or faith background.

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Music

Choir

The Sending

Announcements

***Blessing**

**P: May this holy season be for each of us
a time of moving beyond what is "reasonable"
and toward the star of wonder;**

moving beyond grasping tight to what we know
to unclenching our hands and letting go,
following the Light where it leads;

moving beyond competition toward cooperation,
seeing that all humans are siblings

moving beyond the anxiety of small concerns
towards the joys of justice and peace.

May the transforming acceptance of Mary and Joseph,
the imagination of the shepherds,
and the persistence of the Magi
guide us as we seek the Truth,
always moving toward the Divine promise.
always aware God can be hidden in the frailest among us,
always open to the unexpected flash of Grace,
to the showing forth of that Love that embraces us all.

C: Amen.

Closing Song: *Arise, Your Light Has Come* ELW 314
(printed on the next page)

***Dismissal**

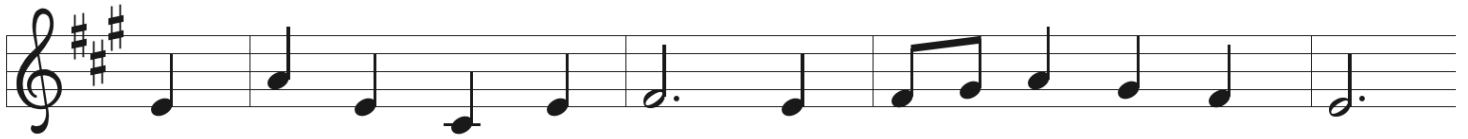
P: Go in peace, follow the star!

C: Thanks be to God, we will!

Please be seated and enjoy the postlude music

Postlude *Partita on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star", part II*
Jan Bender

Arise, Your Light Has Come!



- 1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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