



**Sunday, January 5, 2025**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**

## **ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE**

*During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

### **Prelude**

"Plein Jeu" from the Gloria of the *Mass for the Parishes*  
François Couperin (1668-1733)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### **Psalm of the Day**

Psalm 95:3-7a

For the Lord is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;  
for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.

### **Welcome and Gathering Prayer**

Nathan Wannemacher

### **\*Call to Worship**

Jolene Blesson

Leader: The Christ child is born!

**People: All you who would find him, prepare for a journey, as determined as the Magi.**

Leader: All you who would praise him, come with the faith to follow but a star.

**People: All you who would worship him, come with humility to the child who shows forth the immeasurable riches of God.**

### **\*Hymn of Praise #63 "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Mark van Stee

Leader: O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction.

**People: We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Amen.**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

**People: If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)**

## **God's Will for Our Lives**

**People: Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. (1 John 2:9-11)**

**\*Gloria Patri #579 "Glory Be to the Father"**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S PROMISES**

### **Baptism**

Christina Agnes Schnellmann

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12 (p. 966)

Jolene Blesson

### **Meditation**

Fantasy on "Wie schön leucht' uns der Morgenstern"  
("O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright") BuxWV 223 Part I  
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### **Second Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:6-7 (p. 694)

### **Sermon**

"The Revealing Response of the Mysterious Magi"

Nathan Wannemacher



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*Hymn of Response #69** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

Warren Schenler, Council Chair

### Offertory

Fantasy on "Wie schön leucht' uns der Morgenstern" Part II  
Dietrich Buxtehude

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### \*Doxology

#592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Prayers of the People**

Warren Schenler

**The Lord's Prayer** (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

**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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

**Welcoming of Guests**

Warren Schenler

### Announcements

**\*Hymn of Dedication #411** "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

**\*Sending and Pastoral Benediction**

Nathan Wannemacher

### Postlude

Fugue in F Major BuxWV 157  
Dietrich Buxtehude

Ruth Pfister, Organ

*Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.*

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***\*Please stand if you are able.***

*Today's bulletin cover art is The Three Magi, Byzantine mosaic, c. 565, found in the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Italy (restored during the 19th century).*