

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany  
Star Words



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SONG OF WELCOME    Open Doors

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:  
**The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:  
**The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:  
**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,  
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the  
gospel!**

O come, let us worship the Lord,  
**for God has done wondrous things!**

— from *The Visit of the Magi—Epiphany Sunday*, on [The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship](#).

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER    Where Children Belong TFWS 2233

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ANTHEM

"He Came Down"

### UNISON PRAYER

God of all time,

we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence.

A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem—

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

A light which guided those gift-bearing travelers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child.

A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ.

We pray that you will accept our worship

for it arises from hearts and minds

in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

— Moira Laidlaw, on [Liturgies Online](#).

### TIME OF PRAYER

#### PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

#### 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 and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

HYMN:                    In the Bleak Midwinter    v. 1,2,4                    UMH 221(ccli)

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives.

**LESSON I                      Isaiah 60:1-6 CEB**

**Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.**

**<sup>2</sup> Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the Lord will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.**

**<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light  
and kings to your dawning radiance.**

**<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look all around:  
they are all gathered; they have come to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.**

**<sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant;  
your heart will tremble and open wide,**

because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;  
the nations' wealth will come to you.

<sup>6</sup> Countless camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
They will all come from Sheba,  
carrying gold and incense,  
proclaiming the Lord's praises.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

HYMN

The First Noel v 2-4

UMH 245

\*LESSON 2     Matthew 2:1-12     CEB

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup> He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they went;

and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

## STAR WORDS

## PRAYER

God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us. Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with the saints before us. Amen.

\*HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH 240 v I

POSTLUDE