

[Scriptures and Music for today's worship located at back of bulletin.]

RINGING THE BELL

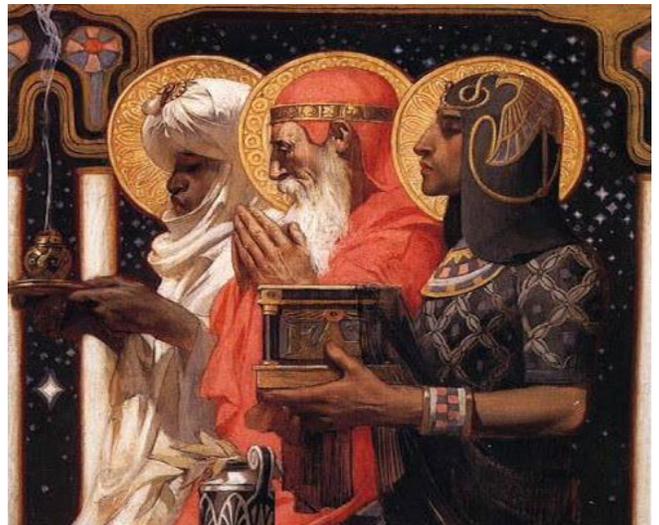
FAITH IN ACTION – Announcements, Joys & Concerns

PRELUDE *Forest Green* arr. by R. Vaughan Williams / Charles Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your Light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!
Lift up your eyes and look around;
They all gather together, they come to you;
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall
thrill and rejoice,
**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God, Alleluia!**



*HYMN *We Three Kings* [Bulletin, p. 5]

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, **You sent Jesus among us as the
Light of the world, to reveal Your love for all
people. We confess that our sin and pride hide
the brightness of Your love. We turn away from the poor; we ignore the cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace. Compassionate God, forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may show forth Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

Celebration of Epiphany

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*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

The Gospel is true, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, live as those who walk in the light.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Please pass a sign of Christ's peace to one another.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60: 1-6

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

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

ALL: They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

EPISTLE (*Letter to the Church*)

Ephesians 3:1-12

[Bulletin, p. 7]

GOSPEL

Matthew 2: 1-12

[Bulletin, p. 7]

WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

HYMN

The Birthday of a King

[Bulletin, p. 5]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are so thankful for the generous gifts of our members and friends!

If you are able, we hope that you will choose to support the work of
Zion United Church of Christ with your financial gifts.

If you would like to contribute online right now, please go to our website,
www.zionucclowden.org, and click on the donate button.

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OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter*

by Gustav Holst

*DOXOLOGY

What Child Is This?

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*INVITATION

-from Anglican Church of New Zealand

Welcome to this holy table, welcome to you, for we are Christ's body, Christ's work for the world. Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world. Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation!

*COMMUNION PRAYER

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, God of majesty and splendor. ... You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars. At Your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.

You breathe life into us and set us among all Your creatures, in a covenant of love and service. Throughout the ages You called Your people to love and serve You, and to be Your light among the nations. When we failed You, You did not fail us and sent prophets to call us back to Your ways.

We praise You that in the fullness of time, You revealed Your love by sending Your son Jesus to be the Light of the world. He came to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Therefore we praise You, with angels and archangels and with all the

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faithful of every time and place, . . . we join our voices in praise of Your name:

*SANCTUS (*spoken in unison*)

**Holy Lord, God of endless love,
Heaven and earth are surely full of Your glory.
The angels sang of it - we have been lavished with it.
Blessed is the One who was born that we might have Life.
Glory to God and on earth peace to all people!**

(Congregation may be seated)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*We receive the bread and the cup together in the sanctuary or across miles. The distance we keep for the health and safety of each other is dissolved in the unity given by our Lord.
Please wait until all have been served, and we will receive the elements together.*

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

God of light, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation in this holy feast for us. Give us the faith that will lead us through this new year and into Your holy Kingdom. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that through us Your light may shine in all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

I am the Light of the World!

[Bulletin, p. 6]

*BENEDICTION

The Light has pierced our darkness.

That we may SEE the needs of Your people.

That we may HEAR what You say to us.

That we may DO Your work well.

That we may DISCOVER new truths about You

That we may TELL others Your good news.

Go in the name of God - Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer - to follow that Light.

Send us out to reveal Your love for all people. Alleluia, Amen!

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*POSTLUDE

Go Tell It

arr. Charles Callahan

The light of Christ is carried out into the world.

Thank you to our Worship Leaders

Organist:	Carter Horman
Liturgist:	Kelly Nabb
Videographer:	Aaron Horman
Power Point:	Koby Stewart
Ushers:	Church Council
Ministers:	All believers
Pastor:	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams



Songs and Scriptures for the Celebration of Epiphany
January 3, 2021

OPENING HYMN *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain: *O - star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshiping God on high. (*Refrain*)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb. (*Refrain*)

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

HYMN *The Birthday of a King*

William Harold Neidlinger

In the little village of Bethlehem,
There lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain: Alleluia! O how the angels sang.
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light,
'Twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much
God gave to us that day;
From the manger bed what a path has led,
What a perfect, holy way. [*Refrain*]

Celebration of Epiphany

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CLOSING HYMN

I am the Light of the World!

Jim Strathdee

Chorus: "I am the Light of the world; you people come and follow Me!"
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: *Chorus*

To find a lost and lonely one, to heal a broken soul with love;
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above. *Chorus*

To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care;
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see all God's children everywhere. *Chorus*

To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth;
To make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colors of the earth. *Chorus*

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Scriptures for the Celebration of Epiphany

EPISTLE (*Letter to the Church*) **Ephesians 3:1-12**

Contemporary English Version

Christ Jesus made me his prisoner, so that I could help you Gentiles. You have surely heard about God's kindness in choosing me to help you. In fact, this letter tells you a little about how God has shown me his mysterious ways. As you read the letter, you will also find out how well I really do understand the mystery about Christ. No one knew about this mystery until God's Spirit told it to his holy apostles and prophets. And the mystery is this: Because of Christ Jesus, the good news has given the Gentiles a share in the promises that God gave to the Jews. God has also let the Gentiles be part of the same body.

God treated me with kindness. His power worked in me, and it became my job to spread the good news. I am the least important of all God's people. But God was kind and chose me to tell the Gentiles that because of Christ there are blessings that cannot be measured. God, who created everything, wanted me to help everyone understand the mysterious plan that had always been hidden in his mind. Then God would use the church to show the powers and authorities in the spiritual world that he has many different kinds of wisdom.

God did this according to his eternal plan. And he was able to do what he had planned because of all that Christ Jesus our Lord had done. Christ now gives us courage and confidence, so that we can come to God by faith.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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."

When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Zion
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
LOWDEN, IOWA



Join us for worship at Zion this Sunday at 9:30 am.
EPIPHANY AND HOLY COMMUNION

COMING UP AT ZION

FRIDAY, JAN. 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

SUNDAY, JAN. 3

Celebration of Epiphany and Holy Communion

Worship at 9:30 am *In-Person and Online*

[View the Worship Bulletin for Jan. 3](#)

Christmas Un-Decorating Following Worship

SUNDAY, JAN. 10

Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Church Council Installation

Worship at 9:30 am *In-Person and Online*

Missions Committee Meeting at 10:40 am

[VIEW THE ZION CALENDAR FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS](#)

Due to COVID-19, it is REQUIRED that face coverings be worn at all time inside the church building for worship services, meetings, and other church functions. Also, please practice social distancing throughout the church. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

Worship is livestreamed on [FACEBOOK](#) and posted to our [YOUTUBE](#) channel later in the day and later in the week on local cable channels. The livestream video begins about 9:20 am.

[FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM WORSHIP LINK](#)

[VIEW THE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR JAN. 3 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE FROM HOME.](#)

WORSHIP IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

This Sunday we continue with in-person worship. Masks are required and all safety protocols in place prior to the suspension continue to be followed. **While we are trying out in-person worship again, Christian Education classes and all other church activities and meetings remain suspended.** We encourage all groups to meet virtually and explore new ways to carry out our ministry. Worship services continue to be livestreamed on [Facebook](#), posted to [YouTube](#) and available on local cable.

We each must make our own decision about when it feels safe to return to worship. It may be now, or it may be several weeks or months away. No matter when that time is; know that your brothers and sisters in Christ love you and are doing all we can to minister to you and the larger community through online worship and other outreach for the duration of the pandemic and beyond. If you have suggestions of ways to do that, please let us know – no idea is too far-fetched to consider.

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

This Sunday we celebrate Epiphany which concludes the 12 days of Christmas, so it is time to take down our Christmas decorations following worship. Please help us un-decorate and box-up our decorations for another year. We'll get started right after worship. Many SOCIALLY DISTANCED hands will make quick work!.



HELP US STAY WARM (AND COOL)

We continue to raise funds to replace the south furnace and air conditioner. You can help us meet our fundraising goal of approximately \$11,500 with any gift – large or small. We currently need to raise another \$9,175 to meet our goal. Contributions may be sent directly to the church or placed in the weekly offering marked “Heating & Cooling Fund.”

LINDA'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Mark your calendar and join us to celebrate the retirement of our church secretary, Linda Behrens, during worship on Sunday, Jan. 17 and virtually via Zoom starting at 10:45 am. More details coming soon.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

While we search for our next church office administrative assistant, we are seeking volunteers to do simple tasks around the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays in the late morning or afternoon. If you are interested in volunteering, contact [Pastor Susan](#) to arrange a time or learn more about the jobs that we need completed. Please consider volunteering for a couple hours one day a week. Thank you.

ADMIN ASSISTANT JOB OPENING

Zion United Church of Christ is seeking a personable self-starting administrative assistant with strong computer skills, including but not limited to Word, PowerPoint, social media, Excel, and other platforms. If you are organized with digital literacy skills, and able to work as a team with a high degree of confidentiality, we encourage you to apply! 12-15 hours per week with possibility of a flexible schedule. Wage commensurate with experience. Complete job description available upon request. Please send cover letter and resume to zionucclowden@gmail.com (PDF or Word). EOE

ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORTS

The Annual Meeting of Zion United Church of Christ will be held Sunday, Jan. 31 following worship. The meeting will be conducted in-person and available virtually by Zoom for members choosing to participate at home. Registration information will be e-mailed in mid-January. If you are not an Internet user and would like to participate from home by phone, please contact the church office. **2020 activity and financial reports from committees and organizations are due in the church office no later than Jan. 13.** Please drop them off or send by [e-mail](#). The Annual Report will again be distributed electronically this year. If you would like a printed copy, you may pick one up at the church or request one be mailed. Reports will be available on or around Jan. 24.

CONTACT ZION

PASTOR

Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams
email: zionpastor@fbcom.net
phone: (563) 941-7726

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm
(or by appointment).

CHURCH OFFICE

email: zionucc@fbcom.net
phone: (563) 941-7726

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
To be determined

If you have church news or information to share in the weekly Zion News, please e-mail news@zionucclowden.org.