

***Epiphany Sunday***  
**January 2, 2022**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Freely, Freely”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“Angels from the Realms of Glory”</i>	220

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6	Page 654 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 72:1-17	795- 796
New Testament Reading	Ephesians 3:1-12	Page 183 (N.T.)

*Hymn	<i>“We Three Kings”</i>	254
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Gospel Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	Page 7-8 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>They Came from the East</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan

**Response to the Word**

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
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Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95

*Hymn	<i>“The First Noel”</i>	245
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\*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>”Lead Me, Lord”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
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\*The Congregation May Stand

***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor:	John D. Jordan	AV Director:	Marie Stiles
Choir Director:	Christopher A. McCroskey	AV Assistant:	Chris Derrick
Church Musician		Time Together:	Mary Louise Robinson

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME** in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor’s tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

***TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS*** are given to the ***Glory of God.***

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...**

John Ballentine	Becky Derrick	Kay Jordan	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Pauline Wenner	Bill Pearson	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Oren Edwards	Bonnie Ramsey	Jeanette Hornsby	Jimmy Grahl	

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Carolyn Hardee; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** **Dolly Orth** (mother-in-law of Allison Frady Orth); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Mildred Hart** (mother of Dee Senn); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler); **Wessli-Ann Hardee Singleton** (niece of Lynn Martin); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Mitch Kelly** (Dale Wells' nephew); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Dave Burrell** (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Audrey Cassady** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Jim Martindale** (uncle of Christopher McCroskey); **Beth Ann Feimster** (sister of Christopher McCroskey); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Heather Stevens, Ty Moore, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Debby Harden, Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Jeff DuBrul** (son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

In-Person Attendance 12/26 SS: 6      Worship: 17

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 12/26 \$ 4,373.39

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Calendar for this Week**

**TODAY** Lunch Bunch

**01/05** Choir, 6:30 p.m.

**01/06** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**01/08** Take Down Christmas Decorations, 9 a.m.

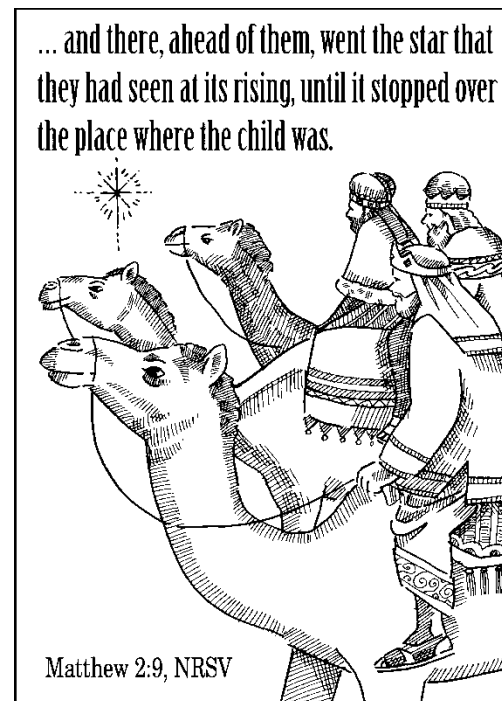


**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Resident Bishop**  
**District Superintendent**

**The Congregation**  
**John D. Jordan**  
**Jonathan Holston**  
**Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson**

***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



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## Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2022 can be found in the Gathering Area. If you would like envelopes but do not find a box assigned to you, please contact the Church Office and we will get them to you.

## Announcements from the Pastor

As we begin the new year, there is a need for people to participate in the Sunday service. You may participate in the following ways:

- 1- **Greeters:** Being in the gathering area at 10:30 to greet people as they enter, especially visitors; to orient visitors- location of bathroom, to stay for time together, nursery etc.; to give visitors a visitor's card so we can have contact information; to check the attendance sheet (this is so we can have a record of attendance and for tracing if there is a COVID situation.).
- 2- **Nursery:** Since in our virtual visit video we say we do have a nursery available, we need volunteers to keep the nursery, at least 2, not from the same household, each Sunday. This is in accordance to Safe Sanctuary Guidelines and the volunteers would have to have a background check. If there are no children the nursery workers may come into the service at 11:15. The speakers in the nursery are working so you may hear the service.
- 3- **Readers:** To read the scriptures, except the sermon text, and lead the Psalter.
- 4- **Audio- Visual:** While Marie Stiles and Chris Derrick do a great job with this, we need more people to learn to use the system. It is fairly easy, even John can do it. You can learn it by sitting in with Marie and Chris a couple of weeks.

There will be sign-up sheets for these in the Gathering Area or contact John or Tom Geddens.

As the new Omicron variant is on the rise we strongly recommend wearing face coverings during Church services and other activities except when eating.

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They Came From the East

1/2/2022

Matthew 2: 1-12

Epiphany Sunday

They came from the east. These Magi from the east saw the star that foretold the birth of a child who was born King of the Jews. They saw the star rising in the east and followed it westward. They followed the star so they could worship the newborn King of the Jews.

They stopped at the palace of the “king of the Jews” in Jerusalem. Ironically, the proclaimed “king of the Jews,” Herod, was not a Jew. Herod was an Idumean who, with the backing of Rome, established himself as the king of the Jews. The Idumeans were Greek names given to the Edomites. The Edomites were hated by the Jews for their complicity in handing over fleeing Jews to the Babylonians after the fall of Jerusalem.

The Magi stopped at the palace of the false ‘king of the Jews,’ in search of the true King of the Jews. There they learned that the true King of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem according to the ancient prophets. They continued to Bethlehem where the star led. There they found the baby born to be the true King of the Jews.

This story of the Magi is the Epiphany. Epiphany is the revelation of God’s working to overthrow the false kingdoms of the world and establish the Kingdom of Heaven. Epiphany marks the beginning of God’s rule over the rule of earthly powers. The adoration of the Magi reveals the world coming to acknowledge the rule of God.

Sadly, it also reveals that some reject the rule of God. Some continue to worship the gods of wealth and power, both those in the story, such as Herod, and those today. They prefer the false rule of the world over the true rule of God.

The Magi rejected the rule of the world and embraced the rule of God. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they returned to their country by another road. The Magi followed the rule of God over the rule of Herod.

When we accept the revelation of the rule of God in our lives we cannot help but live another way. When we experience the revelation of God’s rule in our lives we reject the rule of the world and live according to God’s rule. We reject the rule of the world that says get all you can while you can, and live according to God’s rule to give all you can. We reject the world’s rule of individualism and live according to God’s rule of living in community. We reject the world’s rule of selfishness and live according to God’s rule of selflessness. We reject the world’s rule of exclusion and live according to God’s rule of inclusion.

Matthew points to God’s desire to include all people in that the Magi came from the East. The inclusion of all people is not some new modern interpretation but even predates the birth of Jesus. We read in Isaiah, “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.” And in the Psalm, we read, “May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.” From the time of the fall, God has called all people to come to him. God wants all people to live by divine rule. God wants all people to live by the divine rule of love and reject the world’s rule of hate.

We see radical inclusivity in these Magi who come from the east. Matthew specifically says that the Magi came from the East. This seemingly insignificant detail tells a lot about how inclusive God's rule is. The obvious point is the Magi were gentiles. They were not Jews. But this would be evident if Matthew had just said Magi came, for that term would denote that these were not Jews. If he wanted to note direction, why not say the Magi came from the west, north, or south.

The Magi came from the east – from Babylon and/or Persia. To use modern geographic terms, they came from Iraq and Iran. They came from countries that had conquered and oppressed Israel. If from Babylon, they came from the country that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. If from Persia, they came from a country that continued to oppress Israel even though they gave some religious freedom. The Magi came from the east, the direction from which the conquerors and oppressors of Israel came.

By bringing the Magi from the east to worship the real King of the Jews, Matthew is making the statement that all will be drawn into God's plan to restore humanity. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not exclusive, for Jews alone, but inclusive, for all people. God is coming into the world to free all people, even enemies, and the oppressors.

The Magi come from the east to worship the King of the Jews. They came to worship Jesus. They came freely to worship the king of a people their countries had oppressed. This is the Good News that Matthew presents.

The Kingdom of Heaven is open to all people who freely come into the Kingdom. God's rule of love, equality, justice, and liberty is for all people. The oppressed are liberated from the oppressors and the oppressors are liberated from having to oppress. All people are seen for who they truly are. All are children of God, created in the image of God. All are freed from the blinders of race, sex, ability, nationality, sexual orientation, or all human constructs that divide people. Any and all who come freely are accepted into God's kingdom.

This is the revelation given to us on Epiphany. All people can come to God. All people can enter God's kingdom. You do not have to be of a particular race, religion, creed, or nationality. You can even be an oppressor of God's people and still enter into God's Kingdom if you turn from the worldly kingdom.

Like the Magi, as we come to worship the real King of our lives, we live in another way. We live by the rule of God, not the rule of humans. We live by the rule of a child of humble parents, instead of the rule of Herod. We all can enter into and live by the Kingdom of God no matter what our past, even if we came from the east.