

Online Gathering for Worship
Junction City United Methodist Church
January 3, 2021

Christmas 2: "Seeking What?"

Opening

Prelude "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" - Love to Sing

Welcome

Opening Song "Sing We Now of Christmas"- Discover Worship

Opening to the Spirit's Instruction

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. **5** They 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^[d] my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent

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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." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

May God's Spirit speak to us today through these words of Scripture, the music we sing and hear, and the message shared this day.

Song "The First Noel" - Cedarmount Kids

Sermon "Seeking What?" - Pastor Craig

Invitation and Introduction to Reboot! JP21 Via Vida

Song "We Three Kings" - Anne Murray

Prayers for Our World and One Another

Let us enter now into a time of prayer for one another and for our world. We will do what is called a Bidding Prayer. I will open, and then I will bid your prayers based around various categories. During the silence after each category is bid, I invite you to add your own prayers, either

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aloud or in silence. I will then close with a prayer, then the Lord's Prayer.
Let us be in prayer.

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Let us pray now for all who are ill, in hospital or at home, especially those affected by cancer or COVID-19.

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Let us pray now for all medical and emergency services personnel who are responding to the best of their abilities with the resources that they have at hand.

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Let us pray now for all those who are hungry or food insecure, and for all community and religious efforts to provide food and shelter.

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Let us pray for all who are still displaced from their homes, and those who have no home.

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Let us pray for the leaders of nations around the world, not only regarding their response to this pandemic, but also that they may do everything possible to assure the health and welfare of their citizens.

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Let us pray for all school and college governing boards, administrations and staff, all faculty, and students as they work to offer appropriate and equitable education in a manner that protects the health and safety of all persons.

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Let us pray for our friends, family, and neighbors for their health and well-being.

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Let us also express our thanks to God for the expressions of love and caring that we have witnessed in our families, communities, and world.

Let us express our gratitude for life and the myriad things that gladden our hearts.

These prayers, spoken aloud or in silence, we lift into the universal embrace of the One who is Love, and we make them in the name of the One who showed us what Love looks like in the flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, and we now join our voices in the prayer he taught us, saying:

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

Prayer Response "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" – Burl Ives

Benediction "A Blessing for a New World"

The Lord arise as Light within you,
The Path of Jesus stretch out before you,
The breath of the Spirit renew you.
May justice be at the forefront of your thoughts,
May mercy and kindness be each step you take,
And may love flow as blood in your veins.
Be to the world the Good News they long to see,

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The balm of healing for the pain they feel,
And the wisdom that melts away the dross of the foolhardiness that
grips our world so callously.
Be the change the world desires to see. Amen (CSPS)

Closing Song "Go Tell It on the Mountain" – Love to Sing

Closing Credits