

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—January 7, 2024



Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]  
Author: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

## OPENING PRAYER

based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20 and John 1:43-51

Lord God, you call your people to tasks we would not ourselves choose. Give us the grace to love you enough to follow when you call. You know our weakness and have promised to give resources for that which you ask of us. We praise you for your generous care. Like Samuel, let us say "Here I am." God of surprising light, here we are.

We are surrounded, O God, with people who need to hear the story, people who need to meet the one from Nazareth, Jesus our Lord. Make our homes and places of worship centers of hospitality and welcome. Make our words and actions, words and actions of invitation. Like Philip, let us say, "Come and see." God of surprising light, here we are.

Now in this New Year, grant your people the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Sustain our hearts with the rising of the sun and the times of new beginnings. In gratitude and wonder let us behold the light of the world, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.
- <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah.

**PRELUDE**                      *Joy to the World*                      A-Town Sound  
*Do You Hear What I Hear?*

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Prophets & Promises resource*

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

**People:**                      **O come, let us worship the Lord: for the peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

### \*HYMN

*We Three Kings*  
#254

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]

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And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am                      Dianna Sheely

HYMN    *Sing We Now of Christmas*  
#237 refrain only

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sine we now Noel!

Words: Traditional French carol  
Composer: Martin Shaw (1928)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR EPIPHANY

written by Margaret D. McGee

Bathed in starlight, we pray together to the One who created all things, saying, show us your child, O God, For we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

Make your wisdom in its rich variety known through all faithful people, and give your holy church grace to bear the gifts of truth and love to all your children on earth.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in faith.

Give your justice to the nations and leaders, and give your mercy to all whose decisions affect the peace and well-being of the world. Where we have power ourselves, open our ears to the cries of the weak, the poor, and open our hearts to answer their call.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in hope.

Bless this community, that in your light we may each become a servant, one to the other. Bring us together in story, song, joy, and sorrow; and let every daughter and son who comes among us find kinship.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together in love.

Have mercy on those among us who journey in sickness, fear, or any kind of trouble. Meet them on your road with rest, peace, and good cheer.

[silence]

Show us your child, O God, for we walk together by your side.

We remember those who have died, and now return to their Creator. All those who mourn and cry in sorrow.

[silence]

Dear God, with longing and thanksgiving, knowing that you hold this world and all its children dear in your heart, we pray for the grace to receive your gifts, to lift up our eyes and look around, and to offer back those same gifts to you and your world, with love.

Show us your child, O God, for we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

To the One who is the companion along the way, and our journey's end, we pray in boldness and confidence through faith: **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**

HYMN    *Sing We Now of Christmas*  
#237 refrain only

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## GIVING

*Mary, Did You Know?* A-Town Sound

## \*RESPONSE

*What Child Is This*

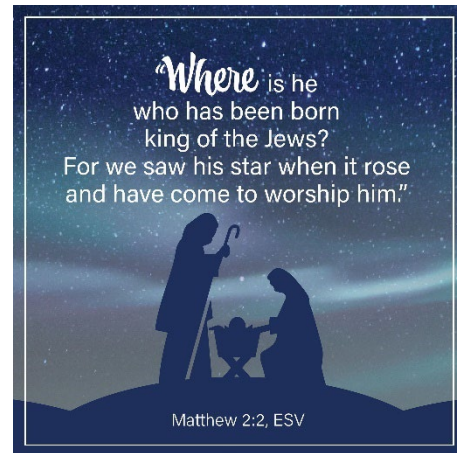
#219 vs. 3 UMH

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Author: William C. Dix (1865)

Music: 16<sup>TH</sup> Cent. English Melody Greensleeves



## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*More than a Rising Star*

Rev. David W. Brown

## CONFESSION

Written by Bruce Prewer

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

- the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily;
- the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom;
- the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it;
- the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

Let us make our confession together...

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or willfulness often choose darkness instead of light.

Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.

Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray:

**“Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.”**

Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!

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## SIGNS OF FORGIVENESS

My friends, Epiphany is good news!  
Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.  
In the name of Christ I declare to you:  
Yours sins are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving,  
and live without shame or anxiety.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ enables us. Amen!

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Sing Out the News* A-Town Sound

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*Communion will be shared in receiving a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. Immediately eat it with thanksgiving. Sealed elements are available near the grand piano if this allows you to participate. You need not be a member of the United Methodist Church or Armstrong Chapel. Simply desire to receive the grace of Jesus Christ.*

## COMMUNION PRAYER

*from the Abingdon Worship Annual*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all gathered, that we might be your light in the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that we might be infused with the gift of your nourishing guidance.

Transform us with your nourishing grace, even as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup.

Transfigure us to be your presence in the world, even as we are redeemed and reclaimed by your great love.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. Amen.

## \*HYMN

*The First Noel*  
#245

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

Traditional English carol;  
harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

## BENEDICTION

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Go now as a light to the nations.  
Honor the Lord;  
preach what you know of the risen Christ,  
and fulfil all righteousness.

And may God strengthen you  
and bless you with peace;  
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice;  
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you  
and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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*\*Stand as you are able*

*Liturgist at 8:20 – Carol Ney*

*Liturgist at 9:40 – Beth Eberle*



*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium  
following the 9:40 service!*



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**A-Town Sound**

Rich Broderick, Jeff Farmer, Jim Farmer, Chester Imhausen

REGISTER YOUR  
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE  
GIVING



Youth Confirmation (grades 7-12) will be **Sunday evenings starting January 14 and going for 9 weeks through March 10.** We will meet in the Atrium from 6:30-8:00 for dinner, activities, and a lesson. *Even if your student has already experienced Confirmation, they can still attend.* Following classes, students can become members of Armstrong Chapel. To register for Confirmation or if you have any questions, contact Pastor Sara at [soconnor@armstrongchapel.org](mailto:soconnor@armstrongchapel.org)



## Saturday Breakfast

January 20

8:00-9:30am in the Atrium

Start off the new year by getting to know each other better. Come pray together, laugh together, and share! No Cost.



## All-Church Skating Party!

Sunday, January 28  
4:30-6:30pm  
Castle Skateland in Loveland

\$10 donation per family for Admission, Pizza & Drinks  
\$3 per person for skate rental

Wear your most unique winter-themed outfit!

INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sponsored by Children & Family Ministries

## WOMEN'S STUDIES

[ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited](http://ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited)

- **Mondays at 9:30am** in the Armstrong Room. *The Chosen*, Season 1. Led by Kelly Haney and Serena Tsuang.
- **Mondays at 6:30pm** at Panera in Mariemont. *The Chosen*, Season 3. Led by Dianna Sheely. (begins 1/8)
- **Tuesdays at 9:45am** at the home of Julie Holland. *New study to begin in January.*
- **Thursday at 6:30am** in the Armstrong Room. William Barclay's *Gospel of Matthew*. Led by Jan Bell and Pam Westrup.

## MEN'S STUDIES

[ArmstrongChapel.org/men](http://ArmstrongChapel.org/men)

- **Friday Morning Bible Study:** Verse-by-verse study of scripture (currently in Luke) led by Pastor David Brown. Fridays at 7:00am in the Armstrong Room and via Zoom.
- **Burgers, Brews & the Bible:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00pm at 50 West Burger Bar. Led by Gordon Miller.
- **715BC:** Breakfast at the National Exemplar in Mariemont. Wednesdays at 7:15am. Led by Bill Woodward.
- **Armstrong Men "Nooners":** Wednesdays at noon for lunch at Ferrari's in Madeira. Discussion on the life application questions from the *Upper Room* devotional. Connect with Bryan Holland for dates.

## YOUNG COUPLES' SMALL GROUP

Sundays, January 7-March 17  
10:45-11:30am in the Armstrong Room  
*Prayer, Scripture and Encouragement*





## *Poinsettias*

### IN MEMORY OF...

**William and Dorothy Bailie** given by Greg and Polli Bailie  
**James and Jane Costein** given by Greg and Polli Bailie  
**Our Parents: Ben and Dorcas Basone, and Jack and Mary Shiverdecker**  
given by Ben and Darlene Basone  
**Our Parents and Loved Ones** given by Barbara Bell and Victor Rodriguez  
**Hugh John Walter Brandt** given by Nancy Tehan and the Brandt Family  
**Parents, Johna and Pearl Brown, and Sarah and Rev. William Maher**  
given by Pastors David and Elizabeth Brown  
**Our Grandparents: Joseph and Virginia Schultz, Walter and Mary Clare Sweeney, Donald and Phyllis Boyd, and Clyde and Genevieve Conn**  
given by Chase and Molly Conn  
**Loved Ones** given by Jay and Jackie DeWitt  
**Our Parents and Grandparents** given by Jim and Bobbie Farley  
**Loved Ones** given by Jon and Jane Florer  
**Parents and Grandparents** given by Elizabeth Hackman  
**Corey Hamilton, Son; and George and Gladys Nickles, Parents** given by Ann Hamilton  
**Our Parents: Scott, Ann, William, and Trina** given by Chris and Jennifer Hamilton  
**Corey Hamilton** given by Chris and Jennifer Hamilton  
**Mary Blair Hamm** given by James, Vicki, Jim and Vera Hamm  
**Gary's Parents, Charlie and June Hartman** given by Gary and Janice Hartman  
**Janice's Parents, Al and Marion Jorgensen** given by Gary and Janice Hartman  
**Our Parents, Jerry Rose, Susan Rose, and Andy and Jerry Hauck** given by Andy and Barb Hauck  
**Andy's Sister, Melissa Rippe** given by Andy and Barb Hauck  
**A Dear and Special Friend, Marble David** given by Andy and Barb Hauck  
**Our Son, Don Horton** given by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Horton  
**My Husband, Dr. Ronald K. Irvin, and Our Parents** given by Marlene Irvin  
**Our Dear Granddaughters, Hannah Asbury Krehbiel and Penelope Claire Krehbiel** given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson  
**My Parents** given by Greg Johnson  
**Bill and Ruth Rhodenbaugh** given by Brandon and Amy Jo Jones  
**Fred and Barbara Betz** given by Brandon and Amy Jo Jones  
**Our Parents, Frank and Emma Santin and Donald and Dorothy Kilday**  
given by Gary and Eileen Kilday  
**My Wife, Coleen M. Lowe** given by G. Franklin Lowe, MD  
**Our Parents, Si and BJ Nielsen and Agnes Lucien** given by Ted and Molly Lucien  
**Husband and Father, Garth Gregory Miller** given by Audrey Miller and Family  
**Audrey's Parents, David and Verna Korn** given by Audrey Miller  
**Greg's Parents, Garth and Marva Miller** given by Audrey Miller  
**Parents and Grandparents** given by Galen and Shannon Mills  
**Niki's Father, William Lundquist** given by Bill and Niki Mitchell  
**Our Parents and Grandparents** given by Chip and Robin Nielsen  
**My Mother, Becky Patterson; and My Grandparents** given by Ginger Patterson

**Nelle and Bob Quisno, Carol's Parents** given by Jim and Carol Pearce  
**Louise and Jim Pearce, Sr., Jim's Parents** given by Jim and Carol Pearce  
**Ralph F. Lewis, Husband** given by Charlene Pfingstag Lewis  
**My Parents, Dr. Charles W. Simons DDS and Helen Simons** given by Charlene Pfingstag Lewis  
**My husband Jim Porter** given by Sue Porter  
**Jim Rixey, and Our Parents: Eppa Rixey III, and Barbara and Joe Eveland** given by Eppa and Buffie Rixey  
**George and Virginia Revelos** given by The Rucker Family  
**Jim Sauter** given by Jill Sauter and Family  
**Irv Scharfenberger, Husband** given by Shirley Scharfenberger  
**My husband, Peter B. Wakefield; and My Dear Friend, Becky Patterson**  
given by Dottie Wakefield  
**Ronald F. Walker** given by Brenda Walker  
**Our Parents, Francis and Helen Webster, and Jim and Julie Rust** given by Andy and Julie Webster  
**Bill's Parents, Albert and Bea Woodward** given by Bill and Joyce Woodward  
**Joyce's Parents, Edward and Cora Farmer** given by Bill and Joyce Woodward  
**Husband, Arthur Wendel** given by Helen Wendel  
**Son, David Wendel** given by Helen Wendel

### IN HONOR OF...

**Our Pastors and Staff** given by Barbara Bell and Victor Rodriguez  
**Our Parents: Mark and Joanne Sweeney, and Rex and Jane Conn** given by Chase and Molly Conn  
**Adie and Isaac** given by Jon and Jane Florer  
**James L. Hamm** given by Vicki, Jim and Vera Hamm  
**Treasured Family and Friends** given by Andy and Barb Hauck  
**Our Children and Grandchildren, Jenny, John, Davis, Margot, and Jackson (JJ) Krehbiel, Meredith Jackson, and Caroline Jackson** given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson  
**The Ministers and Staff of Armstrong Chapel** given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson  
**My Family** given by G. Franklin Lowe, MD  
**The birth of Vivian Claire Lucien; and Our Children, Mike & Janet, Scott, Courtney, and Jay Lucien** given by Ted and Molly Lucien  
**Wayne McShay** given by McShay Family  
**Loved Ones** given by Galen and Shannon Mills  
**Our Children and Grandchildren** given by Chip and Robin Nielsen  
**Our Parents, Ron and Joan Pharr and Eppa and Buffie Rixey; and Grandmother, Nancy Gottschalk** given by JP and Sarah Pharr  
**Our Family, Nancy Gottschalk, Our Children, their Spouses and our Grandchildren: Carol, Ellie & Jack Sullivan, Sarah, JP, Caroline, Molly & Towner Pharr, Quint, Maggie & Nancy Rixey; and Loved Ones.**  
given by Eppa and Buffie Rixey  
**Our Family from One to 92!** given by Steier  
**Our Grandchildren, Paul, Anna, and Grace Stanek** given by Andy and Julie Webster