

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JANUARY 1, 2023

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

When the music begins, let us focus our attention on God and prepare our hearts for the worship.

✦ *Please stand if comfortable and able or please be united in heart and posture as you are seated.*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

GREETING

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Let your praise of God sound to the heavens!

PEOPLE: **We shout the good news of God's mighty love!**

LEADER: Let all the stars, the sun, the moon sing praise to God!

PEOPLE: **The Universe that God created sings its praise!**

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

PEOPLE: **Hallelujah! Amen.**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals.

You have given to us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray.

Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits.

Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

✦ OPENING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH* #251

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (READER): *God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

p. 616

✦ GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

p. 29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

REV. YOON SHIN

MESSAGE

REV. YOON SHIN

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SILENT REFLECTION: *Time to reflect on God's Word received through the Holy Spirit.*

HOLY COMMUNION

✦ HYMN OF PREPARATION

I Come with Joy

UMH #671

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season.

It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse.

We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had.

Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering.

Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you.

Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others.

Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness.

Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION *Please take time to reflect on this confession for your life and faith.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

✠DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠CLOSING HYMN

Star Child

FWS* #2095

✠CLOSING PRAYER

Grant, O Lord, that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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*Your offering may be placed in the plates in the Narthex as you depart.
Thank you for giving to the ministries of Union Village
and the United Methodist Church.*