



Sunday, January 7, 2024

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Welcome and Announcements



Photo by James Gardner



Communion Sunday



Happy Birthday, Wonhee and Ben!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.



Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship
of the wise men. Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good
desires with every greeting.

--Robert Louis Stevenson





Jesus the Light of the World – Worship & Song #3056

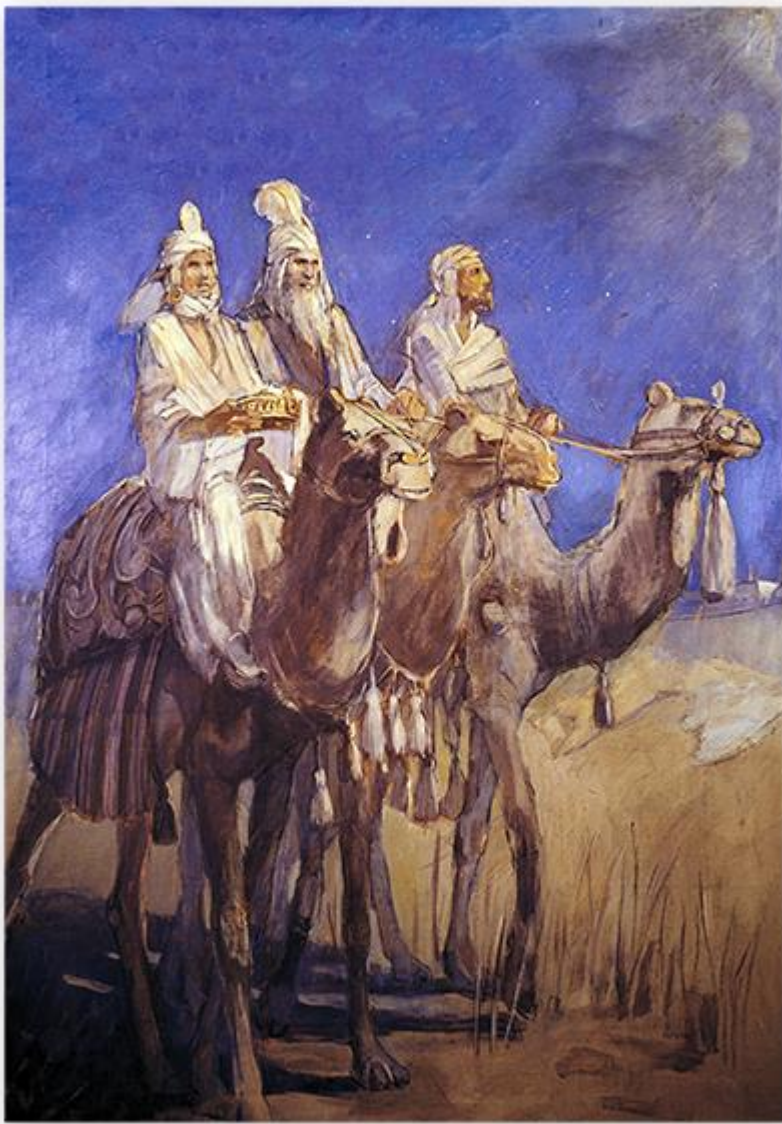
See the bright and Morning Star,
Jesus, the Light of the World.
He has risen in our hearts,
Jesus the Light of the World.

He's the lamp that lights our way,
Jesus, the Light of the World.
Step by step and day by day
Jesus, the Light of the World!

No more darkness, no more night
Jesus, the Light of the World!
He will shine forever bright,
Jesus, the Light of the World!



*Walk in the Light, beautiful Light.
Come where His love and His mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the World.*



Matthew 2: 1-12 *The Wise Men*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking: *Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.*



When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. He called all the chief priests and teachers of the law together and asked them, *Where will the Messiah be born?*

He will be born in Bethlehem in Judea, they replied. Herod then called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.



He sent them to Bethlehem, saying: *Go to Bethlehem and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.*

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

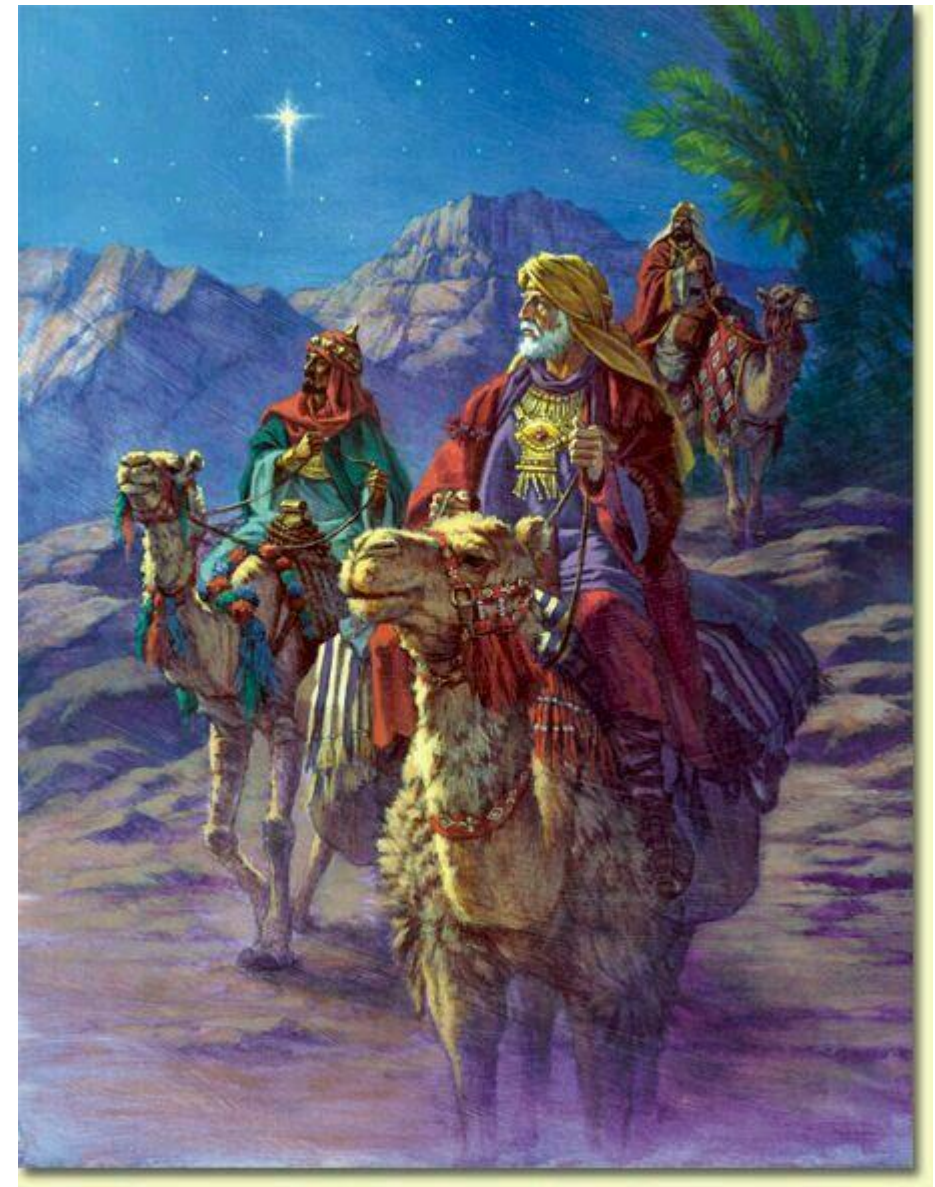
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.





On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another way.



Matthew 2:12

Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod,
they returned to their country
BY ANOTHER WAY.



Bumalik sila sa kanilang bansa sa ibang paraan.

他们通过另一条路回到了自己的国家。

Regresaron a su país por otro camino.

ඔවුන් වෙනත් මාර්ගයකින් තම රටට පැමිණියහ.

...**They returned to their country by another way.**

Ils sont rentrés dans leur pays par un autre chemin.

그들은 다른 방법으로 고국으로 돌아갔습니다.

Mereka kembali ke negaranya melalui cara lain.

彼らは別の方法で国に戻りました。

Opening Prayer

Eternal God,

Today we celebrate the Magi at the home of Jesus. Help us appreciate the full meaning of this. Lord, these strangers to the land journeyed far and long on their mission after seeing the mysterious star. What an act of faith and commitment!

Then, upon finding Christ, not only did they present gifts, but they also worshiped the child.

Lord, this tells us that the Magi realized what they had found...and hearing the voice of God in a dream, **in faith**, they set out for home by another way.

Help recognize the meaning of this. Help us see that following a different path, a different way is almost always what we must do when we choose to be a disciple of Christ.

Amen.





Matthew 2:10 (KJV)

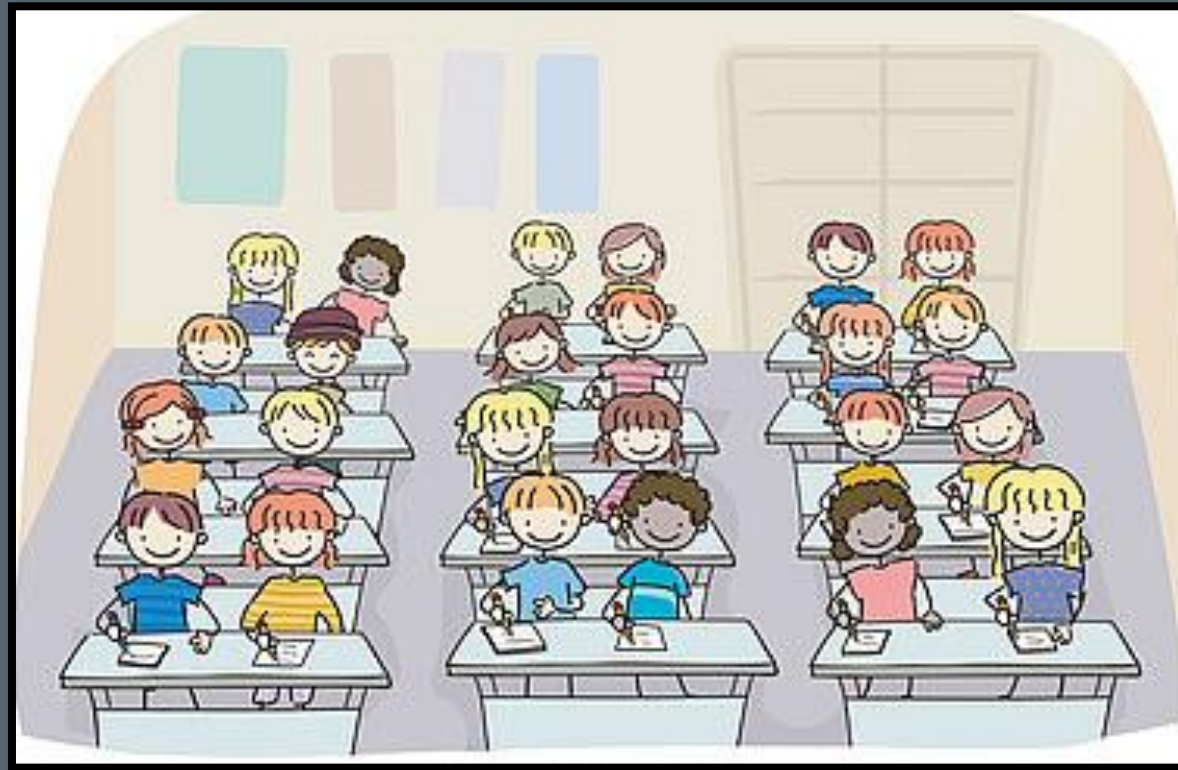
When they saw the star, they **REJOICED**
with **EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY**.





On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Lessons for the Adults



Matthew 2:12

Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod,
they returned to their country
BY ANOTHER WAY.



Matthew 7: 13-14 (NKJV)

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the **way** that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Narrow is the gate and difficult is the **way** which leads to life, and there are few who find it.



This Is a Day of New Beginnings



This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

In faith we'll gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Community Prayer



Dear Lord,

When the Wise Men saw that unusual star in the sky, they realized that they were being given a once in a lifetime opportunity to go in search of You, the long-expected Messiah, King of the Jews. They immediately chose to put aside everything, sacrificing years of their time, and possibly even their physical lives on a difficult and dangerous journey into the unknown.

Although we may never be in situations where our lives are affected so dramatically, You are constantly searching among Your children for those who will respond to calls to Your service. We may put off responding at the time, losing the blessings for others and ourselves that come when we do as the Wise Men did, dropping everything to do what You ask.

Help us to have the courage and wisdom to say,

"Here I am LORD, send me!" Amen





Offering and Doxology



What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what can I give Him — Give my heart.



Communion

**The outward, visible sign of
God's inward, invisible Grace**



Holy Communion



God asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble.

We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves;

but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves

His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

Congregation: and also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you.
Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love
remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,
God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name
of the Lord.

*Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.*

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.



On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."



When the supper was over, he took the cup,
he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples,
and said, *"Drink from this all of you. This is
my blood of the new covenant poured out for
you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.





Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**



Photo by James Gardner

All honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.



Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. **Amen**

Breaking of the Bread



Lifting of the Cup



Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.
Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share
is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

Partaking of the Elements



Benediction

Art by Sue Carroll

