

**PRELUDE, GATHERING,**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** - *space for notes on insert*

**HYMN**                    *Sing We Now of Christmas*                    **237**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                    Ps 72                    *dwh*

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son. ...

<sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.

<sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.

**PRAYER**                    *BCP*

O God, who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence,  
where we may see your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**SCRIPTURES**                    *Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12*  
*Ephesians 3:1-12*

**HYMN**                    *We Three Kings*                    **254**

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

*by Pat Bennett from Enter With Joy  
via Wild Goose Publications, and ionabooks.com*

Epiphany God waiting to challenge and transform—  
forgive us for those occasions  
when preoccupation with comfort and familiarity  
has stifled our response to your Presence  
and subverted its radical possibilities.

Epiphany God—bright Morning Star—  
may we know your Presence with us now,  
and, in opening ourselves to embrace its possibilities,  
find different ways by which to journey onwards.  
Amen.

{silent prayers}

*Written by Nancy C. Townley, via GBoD/DM*  
*The love of God is always offered to us,  
freely, joyfully, for all eternity.  
Rejoice, dear friends;*

This is the Good News of our Lord. Amen.

**CHOIR**                    *Spirit Song*

**SERMON**

**HYMN**                    *Once in Royal David's City*                    **250**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** - *extra space for notes on insert*

**INTERCESSIONS**

**BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*The magi brought gifts to Christ at his nativity  
and offered their lives in worship.  
With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.*

**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER**                    *GBoD/DM*

God of redemption and new life,  
we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given --  
Jesus, our Savior.  
As we leave one year behind  
and look with hope to the new year ahead,  
help us to live and give of ourselves  
as those who know every day  
what a great gift we have been given.  
May it move us to give our whole selves more freely!  
In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray!  
Amen.

## LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

hymnal pages 15-16

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 251

## CHARGE & BLESSING

*adapted from Howard Thurman*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

**We go out; To find the lost; To heal the broken;  
To feed the hungry; To release the prisoner;  
To rebuild the nations;  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart. Amen**

## POSTLUDE

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**Epiphany Sunday  
January 7, 2024 - 11:00am**

**Clarksburg United Methodist Church**

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmumc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede  
Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

**Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon**

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## **Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures**

*As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary  
Year B – Epiphany Sunday; January 7, 2024*

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### **Scriptures**

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

*Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14*

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

*Matthew 2:1–12*

### **Questions for Reflection**

Warned in a dream of Herod's evil intentions, the magi "left for their own country by another road."

What could it mean for you to take "another road" as the church concludes the celebrations of the Christmas season?

### **Morning Prayers:**

Loving God, do not let my good intentions become a means of evil.

Do not let my trust become cooperation with sin.

Do not let my naiveté become an opportunity for wickedness.

Make me prudent in acts of mercy,

firm in my resistance to evil,

and wise in my discernment of wrong,

for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Evening Prayers:**

Loving God,

in the journey of life guide me by the star that leads to Jesus,  
that I may return to you transformed by his love. Amen.

## **Announcements & Notes**

*ANY area where you have an interest & willingness to serve,  
please let us know.*

### **Calendar Notes**

*If there are other calendar notes, please email the pastor...*

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### **Prayer Concern Notes**

***What NEW thing would you like to see  
the church try to do next year?***