

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God,  
in the proclamation of your Word,  
reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ,  
and strengthen our faith  
that we may approach you with boldness. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

PSALTER *UMH # 795 with sung response 1*  
Psalm 72

ANTHEM (see insert)

*The Star Carol*

Alfred Burt

\*GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden

\*HYMN *UMH # 254*

*We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

In the light of Christ,  
we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.  
Trusting in God's grace,  
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**  
**you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,**  
**but we have preferred to live in darkness.**  
**Your justice protects the weak and the distressed,**  
**yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.**  
**Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy,**  
**yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.**  
**Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless,**  
**yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.**  
**Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,**  
**that we may trust you in all things;**  
**through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

This is the good news:  
Christ is the light of the world,  
who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.  
Thanks be to God.

### THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

### OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

### OFFERTORY

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*  
(*UMH # 247*)+

arr. Marsha Medley

### \*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

**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!**

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
It is right and our joy,  
Creator God,  
to give you thanks and praise.  
For in the beginning you created  
the heavens and the earth.  
Out of darkness and chaos,  
you brought light and order.  
You have given life to every living thing  
and made us in your image, male and female.  
Even when we turned away from you,  
loving darkness rather than light,  
you did not turn away from us.  
You sent prophets to show us the way.  
In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Son to be Emmanuel,  
God with us.  
At his birth,  
the night sky lit up  
with heavenly host and a guiding star.  
Shepherds and magi found their way to you.

Women and children, tax collectors and lepers continued to find their way to you. The darkness of Gethsemane, the cross, and the grave could not overcome you; for you are the light of the world, shining still. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. In this feast, make us one with you and with each other. Enflame us with your Spirit, that we may be united in ministry in every place. Send us, in your marvelous light, into the world, ready to serve others and work for peace. We pray in the triune name of God. **Amen.**

*(Today we will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. All of our bread is gluten free. The prayer rail is open if you would like to stop there for prayer after you receive the bread and cup.)*

The baskets beside the front pews are our Communion Offering. This offering goes directly to our Needy Family Fund.

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**  
*UMH # 242 Love Came Down At Christmas*  
*UMH # 237 Sing We Now of Christmas*

**SENDING FORTH**

*HYMN UMH # 245	<i>The First Noel</i>	THE FIRST NOEL
*BLESSING		
*CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Arise, Shine, For Your Light Is Come</i>	Skinner Chavez-Melo
*POSTLUDE	<i>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</i> (UMH #247)+	arr. John Ferguson

Note: Some prayers and liturgical text are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* volume 1 year C. Copyright 2012.

\*Please stand as you are able.  
 +You are invited to meditate on the text during the playing of the music.

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# Bethany United Methodist Church

## Order of Worship

Epiphany

January 6, 2019



# KEEP SEEKING HIM

**ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH (10:50)  
 CHIMING OF THE HOUR  
 PRELUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* arr. Paul Manz  
 (UMH # 247)+

RECEIVING OF THE LIGHT Hanna Whitfield

GREETING  
 Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**  
 Come, worship the Lord of glory.  
**Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

\*HYMN UMH # 220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

\*OPENING PRAYER  
 God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

January 6 – January 13

**Sunday, January 6 Preaching:** Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden **Liturgist:** Michael Corsi-OConnor  
**Acolyte:** Hanna Whitfield **Worship Nursery Workers:** Frances Heald and Marcia Painter

**Opening & Closing of Church Building:** Earl Kirby

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship  
12:15 p.m. Eagle Scout Fundraiser luncheon-FC  
2:00 p.m. ROCA ETERNA  
4:00 p.m. Bible Study-FC  
5:30 p.m. A Table @ Bethany-FC  
8:00 p.m. Common Welfare Group-AA

**Monday, January 7**

7:00 p.m. Dartball (A) St. Paul

**Tuesday, January 8**

10:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Circle meets-FC  
11:00 a.m. TLC BDG MTG-FC  
12:00 p.m. TLC Qtrly Luncheon-FC  
7:00 p.m. UMM meet-FH  
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening Circle-FC  
7:00 p.m. ROCA ETERNA

**Wednesday, January 9**

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Circle meets-FC  
6:30 p.m. Choir  
8:00 p.m. Handbells

**Thursday, January 10**

11:00 a.m. Prayer Group-FC  
7:00 p.m. ROCA ETERNA

**Sunday, January 13 Preaching:** Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden **Liturgist:** Connie Kirby

**Acolyte:** Ann Shonkwiler **Worship Nursery Workers:**

**Opening & Closing of Church Building:** John Roberts

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship  
2:00 p.m. ROCA ETERNA  
4:00 p.m. Bible Study-FC  
5:30 p.m. A Table @ Bethany-FC  
8:00 p.m. Common Welfare Group-AA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 20 UMW Luncheon-FC

Jan 22 Mission Meeting

Anthem

*The Star Carol*

Alfred Burt

*Long years ago on a deep winter night,  
High in the heav'ns a star shone bright,  
While in a manger a wee Baby lay,  
Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.  
Jesus, the Lord, was that Baby so small,  
Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;  
Then came the star and it stood over head,  
Shedding its light 'round  
His little bed.  
Dear Baby Jesus, How tiny Thou art,  
I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,  
And when the stars in the heavens I see,  
Ever and always I'll think of Thee.*

## WARMING TREE

The warming tree is in the vestibule ready for you to place socks, hats, gloves, etc. Items are always needed for children and adults who may not have them. They will be shared with Hillandale Elementary School children and others will go to Urban Ministries of Durham.

## EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER

James Apisai is sponsoring a luncheon today in the Fellowship Center immediately following our worship service. This will be to fund his project for Eagle Scout. Donations will be accepted.

## UMW ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The UMW will hold their annual banquet and installation of officers on January 20 in the Fellowship Center immediately following our worship service. Be sure to give your circle leaders your money and RSVP for the luncheon at your January circle meeting. Cost will be \$10.00 per person.