

Epiphany of Our Lord
January 5, 2025
10:30 AM



Star of Bethlehem Quilt, Anonymous Artist, ca. 1835, USA

University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and a sanctuary congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshipping together in-person, and also offering a virtual option on Zoom and YouTube. Welcome to all!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Susan Debner (presiding minister); Scott Hvizdos (assisting minister); Dick Peik, clarinet, Paul Stever (musicians); Ruth Hedman, Beth Kautz, Lynette Lamb (communion servers); Uli Koester (lector); James Flaten, Seth Strudthoff (worship tech facilitators); Dan Bielenberg (Zoom facilitator); Elaine Reed (greeter); Williams Santana, Sampson Evans, Jim Rowan, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Lydia Rapacz, Liv Evans (acolytes); Carol Flaten (altar guild); Diane Greve (healing prayer); Karilyn Alexander, Leena Rapacz (communion clean-up); Jo Schroeder (land acknowledgment)

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able.

Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

ACS refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

Prelude

Masters in This Hall

arr. Aaron Shows

Welcome

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgement, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

+Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging.

Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.

Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again.

**Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

☩ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

+Gathering Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (vss. 1-3)

ELW 275

+ Greeting

The grace of the Christ Child, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, **You promise to join us along the way. Open us to your dreams for a just and vibrant world. Convince us that we have what we need for today; that you will provide us what we need for tomorrow. In Christ, our guiding star. Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message

Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSVue, Emended

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and the glory of the Lord will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

+ Gospel Acclamation

«¡Levántate y resplandece que tu luz ha llegado!
¡La gloria del SEÑOR brilla sobre ti!
Mira, las tinieblas cubren la tierra
y una densa oscuridad se cierne sobre los pueblos.
Pero la aurora del SEÑOR brillará sobre ti;
¡sobre ti se manifestará su gloria!
Las naciones serán guiadas por tu luz,
y los reyes, por tu amanecer esplendoroso.
»Alza los ojos, mira a tu alrededor:
todos se reúnen y acuden a ti.
Tus hijos llegan desde lejos;
a tus hijas las traen en brazos.
Verás esto y te pondrás radiante de alegría;
vibrará tu corazón y se henchirá de gozo;
porque te traerán los tesoros del mar,
y te llegarán las riquezas de las naciones.
Te llenarás con caravanas de camellos,
con dromedarios de Madián y de Efá.
Vendrán todos los de Sabá,
cargando oro e incienso
y proclamando las alabanzas del SEÑOR.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

ACS Setting 11

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in - deed.

+ Gospel Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 NRSVue, Emended, adapted

The gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Judeans? 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.”

Después de que Jesús nació en Belén de Judea en tiempos del rey Herodes, llegaron a Jerusalén unos sabios procedentes del Oriente. —¿Dónde está el que ha nacido rey de los judíos? —preguntaron—. Vimos levantarse su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo. Cuando lo oyó, el rey Herodes se turbó y toda Jerusalén con él. Así que convocó a todos los jefes de los sacerdotes y maestros de la Ley de su pueblo para preguntarles dónde había de nacer el Cristo. —En Belén de Judea —le respondieron—, porque esto es lo que ha escrito el profeta: “Pero tú, Belén, en la tierra de Judá, de ninguna manera eres la menor entre las principales ciudades de Judá; porque de ti saldrá un príncipe que será el pastor de mi pueblo Israel”. Luego Herodes llamó en secreto a los sabios y se enteró por ellos del tiempo exacto en que había aparecido la estrella. Los envió a Belén y les dijo: —Vayan e infórmense bien de ese niño y tan pronto como lo encuentren, avísenme para que yo también vaya y lo adore.

Después de oír al rey, siguieron su camino. Sucedió que la estrella que habían visto levantarse iba delante de ellos

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 gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Susan Debner

+ Hymn of the Day

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593

+ Prayers of the People

Additional congregational prayers can be found in the weekly e-news called the Thursday Epistle. Following each petition:

God, Emmanuel,
Hear our prayer.

Dios, Emmanuel,
Escucha nuestra oración.

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.
Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words "Peace be with you" or "La paz del Señor."

MEAL

Offertory

Away in a Manger arr. Christopher Ruck/W. Kilpatrick
Dick Peik, clarinet

+Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

+The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to our gracious God.
It is indeed right.... we join their unending hymn:

**And also with you.
We lift them to our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+Sanctus

ACS Setting 11



San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,



cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

+The Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in
heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro
que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra**

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others...

When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

If you are at home on your own...

Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."

If you are worshipping in-person today...

We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket. If you'd prefer, coming forward to the front for a blessing is always an option. Children of all ages are welcome to partake in the bread and juice at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today...

A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.

Music During Communion

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Joshua Parman

Dick Peik, clarinet

Love Has Come

ELW 292

The First Noel

ELW 300

+Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Amen.

SENDING

+Announcements & Blessing

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

+Sending Hymn Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (vss. 1 & 4)

ELW 310

+Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Cristo, el Salvador ha nacido!
Ve en paz. Proclama esta buena noticia.
Gracias a Dios.

Postlude

There's a Star in the East

Spiritual, arr. David Sims

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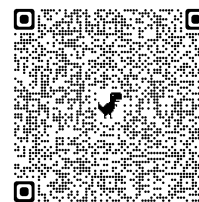
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