

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2, 2022



GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP | STANDING

Christ is our light!

Bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Christ is our life!

Offer him gifts of love and joy.

Christ is in our midst!

Praise him with music and worship.

Come, let us worship Christ, the newborn King!

The first Nowell the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
 born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
 shining in the east, beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
 born is the King of Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,
 in Christ you sent us light to live by,
 yet we seek shadows in which to hide.
 In him, you promise new life,
 but we prefer our old habits.
 You are generous with your love,
 but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us.
 In your mercy, remake us in the image of your Son,
 and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.**

CAROL

What Child Is This

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

LISTENING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of promise and light,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
open our eyes this morning
that we may see your light in the darkness.
Open our hearts,
that we may perceive your promises
fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.
Send us a star to guide us on our journey,
that we might find the one who will truly set us free.
Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Paul Gilmore

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all time,
we thank you for being with us in the year just past.
We thank you for all the ways our congregation has been able to adapt,
and for faithful generosity to support the needs we confront.
We thank you for friendships and relationships that sustain us in uncertain times.
We ask for your Spirit to guide us into the future,
and to create new possibilities for ministry and mission through our congregation.
In gratitude,
our hearts kneel before you, O God;
Receive our humble prayers.

God of all people,
the past year held sorrows for so many people.
We remember dear ones who have died,
and we pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness.
We pray also for those who have faced challenges in health,
in their families or at work, especially ...
Support each one who needs you close by.
In compassion,
our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of light,
as we face the year ahead, so much around us is still uncertain.
We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face.
Draw near to each one who must confront illness or loss,
economic hardship or changing circumstances.
Guide those for whom new opportunities appear,
and choices must be made.
In anticipation
our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of love,
we pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.
Strengthen our congregation to be a lively and committed witness to your love.
Help us reach out to our community in faithfulness and service.
Guide leaders in our nation and around the world
so that justice and peace may prevail,
especially in troubled places and vulnerable lives.
Show us all how to honor and protect your creation.
Receive these humble prayers we make in the name of Jesus our Christ,
who taught us to pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

SENDING

CAROL | STANDING

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

CHARGE AND BLESSING



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
FROM THE STAFF**

*May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas
for the wonderful gift of Jesus
and the joy he brings to our lives.
Have a wonderful Christmas
and a blessed New Year!*

Rev. Paul Gilmore

Geoff Duffy

Nancy Holly

Rev. Phyllis Beattie

Rev. Kathy Dale McNair

Greg Hartfield

Mike Jin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up at winnpres.org to receive our weekly email for all the latest WPC news.

EPIPHANY PAGEANT: JAN 9 @ 10AM

Our Epiphany Pageant is a bit later than normal this year ... and it has a twist! John the Baptist will be taking center stage with the Magi this year. We invite you to come and experience the culmination of the Christmas season with a story as only the children of WPC can tell it!

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Zoom links can be found in your weekly email or at winnpres.org.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore
Lector: Scott Martin
Prayer Leader: Sherri Lewis
Musicians: Bryan Wlas, Annie Liu

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WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Gilmore, Pastor

Geoff Duffy, Director of Music/Associate Director of Worship

Nancy Holly, Director of Children's Ministry/Youth Coordinator

Rev. Phyllis Beattie and Rev. Kathy Dale McNair, Parish Associates

Greg Hartfield, Custodian

