

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 3 January 2021**

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting\*:

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed.  
You will do well to be attentive to this,  
**as to a lamp shining in a dark place,  
until the day dawns and the morning star  
rises in your hearts.** (2 Peter 1:19)

Praise Choruses: 2236 "Gather Us In"  
2155 "Blest Are They"  
2041 "Thou Art Worthy"

Opening Prayer\*:

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls,  
you brought the nations to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
**Fill the world with your glory,  
and show yourself to all the nations;  
through him who is the true light  
and the bright and morning star,  
even Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**  
*Latin Sacramentary, 5th-7th Cent, Alt.)*

Opening Hymn: 254 "We Three Kings"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: 230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verse 4)  
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First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalter: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*Insert: Alternate Leader and People*)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Hymn of Preparation: 725 (*Tune 408*) "Arise, Shine Out,  
Your Light Has Come"

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Seriously."

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed,  
Traditional Version"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

John Wesley's Covenant Service\*\*:

Collect: **God, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ  
as Mediator of a new covenant;  
give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith  
and to join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Covenant: **Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by his death and resurrection  
has made a new covenant  
with all who trust in him.**

On the one side, God promises in this covenant  
to bring us new life in Christ.

**On the other side, we are pledged  
to live not for ourselves but for God.**

From time to time we renew our covenant with God,  
**especially when we reaffirm  
the Baptismal Covenant  
and gather at the Lord's table.**

Today, therefore, we meet,  
as the generations before us have met,

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to renew the covenant that binds us to God.  
**Let us make this covenant our own.**

The Invitation: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.  
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.  
**Christ has many services to be done.  
Some are more easy and honorable,  
others are more difficult and disgraceful.**  
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interest,  
others are contrary to both.  
**In some we may please Christ  
and please ourselves.  
But then there are other works  
where we cannot please Christ  
except by denying ourselves.**

Be satisfied that Christ  
shall give you your place and work.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition: 607 (*Unison*)

Sung Response: 382 (*Verse 4 only*) "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

### **THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)**

**Prayer after Communion: 2095 "Star-Child"**

### **SENDING FORTH**

Closing Hymn: 117 "O God, Our Help, in Ages Past"

Dismissal with Blessing\*:

May the God who established a covenant  
with those who seek to enter the kingdom

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be always present with you. **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ who sealed the new covenant  
with his sacrifice on the cross bring you peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

### **Extinguishing of Candles, Postlude, Going Forth**

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