



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2021

Prelude

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne, Martha Main

We are Called to Worship - Radiant god, light for all people and all places, by the guidance of a star you led the 3 wise men and camels to worship Jesus. By the light of faith lead us to worship you in peace and love and guide us in your way. We pray in the name of Jesus, light of the world.

Prayer of Invocation - God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons. Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship. Amen.+

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Song

We Three Kings of Orient Are

AN EPIPHANY PAGEANT

The Three Camels

Adapted from the original short story by Harrison Woodward. Adaptation by Rev. Shana Johnson with permission from author..

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH OUR GIVING

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.=

You're invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy is under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.
Zion United Church of Christ
8916 E. Troy Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can also submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal donation button by using your credit or debit card or a PayPal account. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at www.zionuccindy.net/donate.

We Give Thanks – Loving God, may these gifts reveal to us and to others the Light that is Jesus. And may this Light lead us on into new and challenging ways of living and serving. Amen.+

WE GATHER AT THE TABLE



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not

about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation-- Come to the table of love. At this table, we will find strength for our journeys and rest for our souls.

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: ‘This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death and celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.+

Our Confession — Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. =

Assurance of Grace— Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God’s goodness. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.=

Invitation and Words of Institution-- Through Christ’s light and love, those first disciples were gathered together in the midst of their brokenness, were reclaimed by Christ, and were blessed by his glorious light in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so we come into that light, remembering how Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” We come to this table, remembering how Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts of light and love, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as children of

light, in union with Christ, the Light of the World, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Blessing Our Meal— Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ— the Light of the World— redeemed by Christ's love and reclaimed by your grace. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry with the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, both now and forevermore. Amen.~

We Share the Bread and the Cup – (*Taking the bread*) Take and eat, this is Christ's body broken for you. (*Taking the cup*) Take and drink, this is Christ's blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.

We Give Thanks— Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. United us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing

From Garth Hewitt:

*Shine on, shine on, star of Bethlehem
Shine as on that night.*

*Shine on, shine on, star of Bethlehem,
Teach us how to show your light.*

Postlude

Behold the Star, Martha Main

Worship Notes: +UCC Worship Ways. =Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (pp. 40-41). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition. ~ The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. 'UCC Book of Worship.