

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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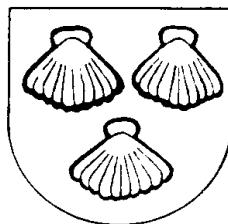
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**January 4, 2026  
9:30 am  
“Seeing the Light”  
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj | Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Director of Music Ministry: Kelli Young | Organist: Clarice Snyder  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD 21104-4420

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## Gathering

### Prelude

"Reflection on Epiphany" Peter Pindar Stearns

*Offered by Clarice Snyder*

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### Welcome

*Rev. Patricia Abell*

### Threshold Song

"Alleluia"

**UMH 186**

1. Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. He's my Savior  
3. I will praise Him

CCLI Song # 16811

Jerry Sinclair

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### Call to Worship

*Edie Candee*

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**God, help us find your glory.**

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

**God, help us notice your glory.**

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

**God, help us encounter your glory.**

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

### Opening Prayer

*Edie Candee*

**Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salvation. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today. Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.**

Written by Kwasi I. Kena, The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 53.

### \*Opening Hymn

"We Three Kings"

**UMH 254**

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

#### **Refrain**

O star of wonder star of light  
Star of royal beauty bright  
Westward leading still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

**Refrain**

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**Refrain**

3. Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising voices raising  
Worshiping God on high

**Refrain**

5. Glorious now behold him arise  
King and God and sacrifice  
Alleluia Alleluia  
Sounds through the earth and skies

**Refrain**

John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)  
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### Proclaiming

#### Children's Message

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

#### Scripture

**Isaiah 60: 1-6 (NRSVue)**  
**Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSVue)**

**Edie Candee**

#### Anthem

"Three Wise Kings" Douglas E. Wagner

**Chancel Choir**

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#### Message

"Seeing the Light"

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

### Responding

#### Pastoral Prayer

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

#### \*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

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#### Offering Prayer

#### Invitation to the Table

#### Prayer of Confession

**Edie Candee**

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.

We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

### Words of Assurance

**Edie Candee**

ONE: Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**ALL: God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.**

**We are loved; we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

Written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. Posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/12/prayer-of-confession-mahew-2-1-18.html>.

### Passing of the Peace

**Edie Candee**

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### Music for Communion

**"Arise, Shine!" James A. Kriewald, Diedre Kriewald**

Copyright James A. Kriewald December 7, 1992

**Chancel Choir**

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#### Going Forth

**"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

**UMH 220**

#### \*Closing Hymn

1. Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

2. Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
**Chorus**

3. Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star  
**Chorus**

4. Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear

CCLI Song # 31669

Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery

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### Benediction

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

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*Question for Reflection*

In Epiphany when the magi make their great journey to see the Christ Child, we see Jesus drawing all creation to the divine life revealed in him, and we see the realization of God's dream of reconciled creation.

In our own way, we are each endowed by the Spirit with unique and precious gifts for sharing God's healing love in a good but often divided world.

What spiritual practices do you engage in that allow you to stay peaceful, courteous, and develop a respectful regard for difference?

How do you stay present and create openness for finding, revealing, and activating God's reconciling love in the world??

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Glorious God, each day provides opportunity to awaken to the radiance of your presence, and to welcome your blessing into my life.

How often I forget that I am your home!

Help me to draw more closely to you, that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world.

May every bright place and darkened corner grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Holy Jesus, I thank you for sharing your life with me today.

As darkness comes and blankets the earth, be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter.

Kindle in them the warmth of your presence, and surround them with your steadfast care.

I am grateful for the blessings of this day.

And in the light of your love I rest this night. Amen.

**RESOURCES:**

- + Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 © 2013  
Westminster John Knox Press
- +Abingdon Worship Annual 2025...ministrymatters.com
- +Glory Revealed. Discipleship Ministries, 2025. (NOV 30-DEC 28)  
Retrieved from [umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/](http://umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/)

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*Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.*

