

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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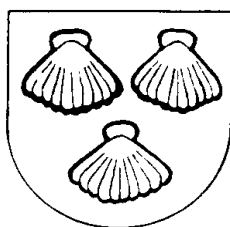
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January 4, 2026
9:30 am
“Seeing the Light”
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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, MD410-442-2020

stjamessec@verizon.net

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
Worshipping 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
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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

Chancel Choir

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Going Forth

*Closing Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

UMH 220

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

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

Chorus

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

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)

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