



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

We keep seeking

Cover Art: “The Golden Pilgrimage”

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Imagine the whispers in the town of Bethlehem. The relatives of Mary and Joseph, curious about the absence of the soon to be young mother, grateful to have a sense of distance from the silent scandal of an unwed wife and a man who remains with her in her apparent dishonor. Members of the community whispering of Herod's increasing anxiety over the birth of one of their own. Those learned in the ways of the stars gazing up to search the dark skies for a prominent golden orb, over which the elders have been speculating.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the pilgrimage of three distinguished individuals to the newborn revelation of God revealed in the Christ child. Whether there were only three wise men, or kings, or Magi does not matter. However many of them made the harrowing pilgrimage to the newborn Jesus, they were most likely foreigners and outsiders.

Often the community we begin a journey with is not the same community that supports us throughout our journey's length. The Golden Pilgrimage depicts the kind of surrogacy that occurs when a friend, a sibling, a neighbor, a father, or a pastor steps in as a much-needed friend. Even in the story of our Savior's birth, it is not a matter of whether blood is thicker than water. Instead, what matters are the bonds that tie a community together when love and acceptance flow like the healing frankincense and myrrh of the gift-bearers.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2023

Gathering Music

Prelude

“We Three Kings”

arr. Owen Griffith

Tim Hendrix

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

† Call to Worship

One: Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...
Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...
Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...
Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear
into this space.

All: God is here.

† Opening Song

“From Generation to Generation”

Words and Music

by Christian Mclvor, ©2022

Verse 1:

**The future holds the past and present, it knows where we’ve come from;
The present holds the past and future, and the hope of what may come.
Traditions held to, the paths we’ve followed have led us here today,
May we be open to transformation as we make a new way.**

Verse 2:

**When we’re consumed with doubt and worry, it seems there’s no release;
Our world gets small, our fears take over, and we lose all sense of peace.
But there, God meets us to call us forward, distractions start to fade;
With courage rising, we’ll meet the challenge, we will not be afraid.**

Chorus:

**From generation to generation, the seeds of love are sown;
As we take part in God’s liberation, the promise is made known.
The story continues of the Christ in flesh and bone;
From generation to generation, we are not alone.**

(cont’d on next page)

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Verse 3:

**When we're caught up in times of trouble, we have a choice to make;
Will we respond with strength and patience? Will we bend or will we break?
If we just listen and work for justice, to truth we will be led.
And to the story, we'll take great joy then in weaving our own thread. (Chorus)**

Bridge:

**God's love connects us, it breaks down every wall;
So let God, from within us, reach out to the God in all. (Chorus)**

Children's Sermon

April Alston

Pastoral Prayer

Christian McIvor

Offertory Anthem

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
(Jesus, the Light of the World)"
GBC Choir

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT;
*Words by Charles Wesley
and George D. Elderkin,
Music by George D. Elderkin,
arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton*

Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

Christ by highest heaven adored;
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

† **Doxology 817**

“O Bless the Gifts”

OLD HUNDREDTH;
Words by Roger Lynn,
Music from the *Genevan Psalter*

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.**

Prayer of Dedication

Dave Phillips

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-23

Linda Peterson

Sermon

“*We Keep Seeking*”

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Communion

Anna Beth Cross and Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† **Carol 270**

“Joy to the World”
Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

Celebrating Community

Steve Rose

Benediction

Chrissy Williamson

Postlude

“Worship the King (A Christmas Medley)”
Pam Weis

arr. Marilyn Ham

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Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | “The Golden Pilgrimage”
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