

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you

- *Isaiah 60:1*



Sunday, January 4, 2026

*Prayer candles are available at the communion rail  
Financial gifts may be made in the wooden offering boxes  
Please silence your electronic devices*

## THE GATHERING & CARILLON PRELUDE

## THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

# We Three Kings

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*Liturgist*  
We gather as people looking for the star,  
a sign that God is at work in the world.  
**God, help us find your glory.**

*Liturgist*  
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.**

*Liturgist*  
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.**

*Liturgist*  
On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love  
shine among us, revealing divine glory through  
neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable  
children, a poor carpenter and a foot-washing  
servant who is the salvation of the world.

**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.**

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN\*

## *We Three Kings*

UMH #254

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*

**O 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 like those who cared  
for God in infant vulnerability,  
that he might know love and safety.**

And yet, merciful God,  
we must recognize all the times we are  
more like Herod.

Whenever we find our own need for  
control more compelling than the needs  
of others' 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.  
In the name of Christ,  
the one who showed us the way,  
we pray. AMEN.**

*cont.*

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

*Pastor*

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. 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.**

## THE EPIPHANY RESPONSE\*

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

UMH #220  
verse 3

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

## THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*Isaiah 60: 1 - 6*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## THE THANKSGIVING & DOXOLOGY\*

UMH #94

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

*Matthew 2: 1 - 12*

## THE MESSAGE

The Reverend Don Ackerman

*Following Another Star*

## THE CLOSING HYMN\*

*Christ is the World's Light*

UMH #188

## THE BENEDICTION\*

## THE POSTLUDE

*Noel Etranger*

Louis-Claude Daquin

\* - Please stand as you are able  
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal

**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
*The Crossroads Chronicle Weekly*

[cantonforallpeople.org/email](http://cantonforallpeople.org/email)

To help keep our sacred space clean, at the conclusion of the service,  
please return this bulletin to one of the wooden tables located throughout the sanctuary

## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Reverend Don Ackerman  
*Pastor*

Ted Hall  
*Liturgist*

Julie Smith  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

Bruce Shutrum  
*Guest Organist*

Happy  
Birthday

1/4 - Garrett Detchon  
1/5 - James Bagrich  
1/9 - Joe DiLauro  
1/10 - Annie Almou, Jill Ott

## Crossroads Community Action Meeting TODAY

11:15 am  
Conference Room

