

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**May we, shining God, hear the scripture as something fresh and new,
that you might illumine us with the light of your love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6
p. 676 or 679 (NRSV pew Bibles)

RESPONSE TO THE LESSON

One: God's word for God's creation.

Many: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Carol of the Epiphany
Senior Choir

John Bell

* GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12
p. 1 or 1147 (NRSV pew Bibles)

* RESPONSE TO THE LESSON

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Many: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Asking for Directions

Rev. Leigh Dry

OFFERING

Offertory

* Doxology

What Gift Can We Bring

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?

*When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?*

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!*

*When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!*

* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

* PASSING THE PEACE

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Leader: God in your mercy.

People: Receive our prayer.

The Jesus Prayer

O God, who is in all places, we celebrate your utmost holiness. May your ways of life be how we live and think and act – in this world, and beyond. May we seek for this day - only our needs, and no more, and we ask that you forgive us the wrong we have done but only as much as we also offer such grace to others. Protect us, God, from all that would separate us from your love. And lead us away

from all that creates evil for us and for all others. We pray this, God, in awareness of your transcending love and your reconciling presence which redeems and empowers us, together, now and forever. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#251

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

PRELUDE

Laudate!

Colin Mawby

.....
* Please stand in body or spirit.

Hidden in the folds of the long night's robes
gleams a star that knows,
and that shows a Way.

In the village of your soul dwells a Wise One
with sacred eyes
and the courage to leave home.

The heart does not choose a way
by the road, nor the inns,
but the love at the far end.

A bird calls out to its lover,
revealing its presence,
unafraid to alarm the hunter.

Bring provisions,
and burial instructions.
Leave the house open.

- Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Lexington United Methodist Church

An inclusive and reconciling congregation

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Rev. Leigh Dry, Pastor

Marla Marcum, Christian Education Director

Sarah Hager, Music Director/Organist Allyson Printz, Office Administrator

Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 10:00 am

Epiphany Sunday

WELCOME

We especially welcome all visitors and newcomers. We invite you to make yourselves known to the members and pastor of the church, to sign the guest book in the Narthex and to join us in Martin Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the worship service. We greet you in the Lord's name, and are glad to have you with us.

To all who are young and need counsel; to all who are strong and want a task; to all who are lonely and want companionship; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are sinful and need a Savior — to whomsoever will: this Church opens wide its doors and, in the name of Christ our Lord, says, Welcome.

PRAYER LIST

New additions to the prayer list are in bold typeface. To add or remove a name from the list, please advise Rev. Dry or Allyson.

Todd Bergman, Claire Carlson, Bonnie Codier, Jack Dunn, Allen Garland, Family of Camille Goodwin, Bill Grabow, Muriel Grimes, Hill Family, Jim Hogan, Louise Kreutziger, Jessica Moskowitz, Lenn Murphy, Steve Mosiello, Allyson Printz and family, Bill Santelmann and Don Walker.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Nancy Andrews

Sound Booth: Rainer von Saleski and Dave Dry

Sound Technician: Bernice von Saleski

Nursery Care: Jane Atkins, Pisha Chen

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 8 - 15, 2012

Sunday, January 8 – Epiphany Sunday

- 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care
- 10:00 am *Godly Play*
- 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall
- 3:30 pm UM foundation of NE 20th Anniversary Celebration
- 5:00 pm Youth Group

Tuesday, January 10

- 1:00 pm Book Club (Landers' home)
- 7:15 pm Nurture Committee

Thursday, January 12

- 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 15 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day

- 8:45 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Worship; Nursery Care
- 10:00 am *Godly Play*
- 11:00 am Fellowship in Martin Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upper Room Disciplines for 2012** are for sale in the church office. Each book of daily devotions is \$12.00.
- **The Youth Group** will be meeting in the library today, January 8 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm at Muriel Landers' home to discuss *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.
- **Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Potluck and Game Night** on Sunday, January 22 at 5:30 pm. King cake and games!
- **Bible Study *Invitation to Genesis*** – Please join us for Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, January 25 – your choice of two meeting times – 9:30 am or 7:15 pm!