

# Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church

310 First Avenue South 715-423-0180 www.wrmoravian.org

*"Sharing Christ, Serving People"*

Sunday, January 10, 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

## CALL TO WORSHIP – Isaiah 60:1-6

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

C: **For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.**

L: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

C: **Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.**

L: A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

C: **They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

## WELCOME & STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

BECHLER

Sing hallelujah, Christ doth live, our light forevermore;  
The Prince of Peace all glory give, His blessed Name adore;  
With kings of old, your homage pay to Him who in a manger lay;  
With Judah's shepherds, bring again the angel's song to men.

## LITURGY FOR NEW YEAR

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits,**

Who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases,

**Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

TUNE: ST. ANNE (14 H)

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Remain our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Let us in penitence and humility confess our sins before the throne of grace, praying together:

**God of mercy, as we mark this moment, we confess our weaknesses, failures, and transgressions:**

**Our broken vows,**

**Our slackness and misuse of time and opportunity,**

**Our selfishness and our love of ease,**

**Our unkindness and indifference,**

**Our self-indulgence and our pleasures taken at the  
expense of others,**

**Our moments when we have not been true to ourselves,**

**Our lack of faith in your providence.**

**For these sins of commission and omission, have mercy upon us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life; and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.

Choir: Lord God, Father, hear us as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Choir: Lord God, Son, the Savior of the world, **All: Be gracious unto us.**

Choir: Lord God, Holy Spirit, **All: Abide with us forever.**

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

TUNE: DISMISSAL

Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
May your presence, May your presence, with us evermore be found.

Lord Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever: your throne is established in righteousness, your compassion fails not, and your love endures from generation to generation. Lift the light of your countenance upon us, for we are exiles as our ancestors were. We thank you for all the ways by which you have led us in the past. Give us courage to set our faces toward the future.

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.

For your grace given to us in days that are gone,  
For the blessings of life, seen and unseen,  
For the joy and peace of communion with you,

**We give you thanks, gracious God.**

For the sacraments of love and service which have made unconscious of your presence in our common life,  
For the deeds we have been able to accomplish in the strength which you supply,  
For the kindness of associates, the love of friends, and the fellowship of kindred souls,

**We give you thanks, loving God.**

For the disciplines which have enriched our living,  
For your wisdom and gracious providence which we have recognized when you have denied our foolish requests,  
For the faith which has guided us in days of trial,

**We give you thanks, gracious God.**

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

TUNE: MIT FREUDEN ZART

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation.  
Your people still have known your grace and your blest consolation.  
Through every age you heard our cry, through every age we found you nigh,  
Our strength and our salvation.

Lord, nothing from your arms of love shall your own people sever.  
Our helper never will remove; Our God will fail us never.  
Your people, Lord, have dwelt secure; Our dwelling place, you will endure  
Forever and forever.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us offer intercessions and petitions for the needs of the world.

**Lord Jesus Christ, as disciples called to your service, we pray for the salvation of all. Lead us to bear witness to friends and neighbors in the community. Fill our words and manner of life with the convincing power of your Spirit. Intensify our love for all people that our discipleship may be confirmed as genuine. Through our obedience to your call, bestow on many the faith to be saved.**

**Give every gift and blessing to your witnesses in all places. May those who suffer because they have named you as Lord be strengthened to endure every temptation. Give courage, insight, and loving patience to those who have left their own people to proclaim the gospel to those yet unreached.**

**Savior, grant that your church may always grow in grace and in numbers. Bring multitudes from every people to bow and confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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### SCRIPTURE:

*Ephesians 3:1-12*

<sup>3</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,<sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:<sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.<sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER with PRAYER OF SERVANTHOOD

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. We give you thanks for your constant presence. Through seasons of constancy and change, you are with us, calling us out of ourselves into the world to serve others. Grant that we may be united in love for each other and for those we haven't yet met. Grant us wisdom, patience, and perseverance as we work through the details and challenges of the ministry you have placed before us. Continue, O Lord, to bless the work of our hands. Bless the work of our hands. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE:

*Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## MESSAGE

### LITURGY FOR EPIPHANY

TUNE: GAUDEAMUS PARITER

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise;  
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem, in your birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

All your creatures, Lord, will praise you, and all your people will give you thanks.

**They will speak of the glory of your royal power and tell of your might.**

Everyone will know your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

**Your rule is eternal, and you are king forever.**

You, Lord, are righteous in all you do, merciful in all your acts.

**You are near to those who call to you, who call to you with sincerity.**

You supply the needs of all who honor you; you hear their cries and save them.

**We will ever praise you, Lord; let all creation praise your holy name forever.**

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto you;  
Young and old, your praise expressing, sing your mercies ever new.  
All the saints in heav'n adore you; we would bow before your throne.  
As your angels serve before you, so on earth your will be done.

With sincere hearts and open minds, let us now acknowledge the sin that entangles us and prevents us from doing God's will.

### SILENT CONFESSION

**Compassionate Lord, you call us to a higher standard than we have achieved. We therefore bow in honest confession of those thoughts, words, and deeds which have missed the mark. Within our families, we have loved imperfectly. Among sisters and brothers in the church, we have not fully walked in the light. Often our congregations have not reflected the rich diversity of people in our communities. In our witness to the world, our lives have not adequately testified to your redeeming power. Forgive us, gracious Lord, for permitting ourselves to be distracted from the goal of our discipleship. Heal the brokenness of our hearts and restore us to you, our first love.**

TUNE: BATTY

Grant that we may love you truly; Lord, our thoughts and actions sway,  
And to ev'ry heart more fully your atoning pow'r display.

There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. Hear the word of our Lord: I do not condemn you. Go, but do not sin again.

God created the heavens and stretched them out, fashioned the earth and all that lives there, and gave life and breath to all its people.

**And now the Lord God says to his servant: I, the Lord, have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth. Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples.**

Through you I will bring light to the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind,

**And set free those who sit in dark prisons.**

TUNE: ST. AGNES

Light of the world, come near and bless your children here below,  
Who in your house your name confess, on us your grace bestow.

Light of the world, we worship you; our gifts to you we bring;  
Accept our sinful hearts, O Lord, while praise to you we sing.

God shows no partiality to race or culture. All who have reverence for him and do what is right are acceptable to God.

**Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.**

Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!

**How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure!**

This is the good news: through Jesus' death and resurrection all people may participate in God's blessings.

**We are members of the same body and share in the promise that God made through Christ Jesus.**

There is no longer rich or poor, black or white, male or female; for we are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

**If we belong to Christ, then we are members of God's family and will receive what God has promised.**

TUNE: DULCE CARMEN

Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,  
Called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace:  
Know the purpose of your calling; show to all God's mighty deeds;  
Tell of love which knows no limits, grace which meets all human needs.

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#### LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION IN CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S COMING

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**Amen. Thanks be to God**

TUNE: WORSHIP

We covenant with hand and heart to follow Christ, our Lord;  
With world, and sin, and self to part, and to obey his word;  
To love each other heartily, in truth and with sincerity,  
And under cross, reproach and shame, to glorify his name.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

(All partake together.)

#### SILENT PRAYER

By your divine presence, by the holy sacraments, by all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection,  
**Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God. Amen.**

By your divine presence,  
By the holy sacraments,  
By all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection,  
**Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God. Amen.**

In the same way, after supper our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, and gave it to His disciples saying: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(All partake together.)

#### SILENT PRAYER

Christ the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**Grant to us your peace. Amen.**

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death,  
**Until he comes.**

AZMON (TUNE 320)

The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light;  
on them broke forth the heav'nly dawn who dwelt in death and night.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours alone,  
Who with the Father ever are and Holy Spirit, one.

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

(539 B)

**In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

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## WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Psalm 29:2

## Tearing Barriers Apart

From the start of Jesus' ministry, he was all about tearing apart the barriers that stand between God and God's people. The Gospel of Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus uses the Greek verb *schizo*, which translated in the NRSV is "torn apart." He uses this verb to describe the heavens opening up so the Spirit could descend on Jesus "like a dove." The only other time Mark uses this verb is to describe what happens to the Temple curtain at Jesus' death. The curtain that separated God's people from the sacrificial altar was torn apart. No longer did God's people need a mediator to go to God for forgiveness. The barrier to direct contact was torn apart.

As Jesus began his ministry on earth, the barriers that had separated God from God's people began to tear apart. The religious structures that were in place to keep people away began to tear apart. The assumptions about who was clean and unclean, who was acceptable and who was not, began to tear apart. Jesus began to tear apart the old ways of understanding and knowing God, so that any barriers would be removed and all could be welcomed into God's kingdom.

Upon this tearing apart, God speaks, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark doesn't say if anyone else at this event heard this voice, but it is recorded for us to hear. God was pleased with Jesus' desire to tear apart that which would separate God from God's people. God is pleased when we seek to do the same.

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## The Moravian Church

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 10, 2021

