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Sunday, January 3 2016, 10:00am
Theme: Epiphany – Pilgrims to Sacred Places

† indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING VISITORS (*Leader*)

†GREETING ONE ANOTHER (Please feel free to move around)

SPIRIT LINES (Announcements)

SILENCE & TONE BOWL

CANDLES OF ADVENT

What is hope?

Hope is not a dream but a way to make dreams become reality.

One day someone is going to hug you so tight that all of your broken pieces will stick back together.

(light 1 blue candle)

What is peace?

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

(light 1 blue candle)

What is joy?

Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

Find joy in the little things in life for, one day, you'll look back and realize they were big things.

(light 1 pink candle)

What is love?

If grass can grow through cement, love can find you at every time in your life.

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

(light 1 blue candle)

How is Jesus hope, peace, joy, and love?

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling

Peace I leave with you; my *peace* I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance;

and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have *loved* you, you also should *love* one another. **Amen**

(light Christ candle)

Response: This Joy (sung to *This Little Light of Mine*)

This Joy* that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
This joy that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
This joy that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
The world didn't give it,
the world can't take it away!

OPENING PRAYER: (*In Unison*)

One: The wise ones pilgrimaged to see the Christ child.

All: They followed the star, the light of God's signs.

One: The light is visible to all, but only the wise ones followed it.

All: Where have you seen the light this past year?

One: Where have we come from?

All: And where are we going?

(Children and Youth are invited to join with their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary)

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING (**Responsive**)

One: We come to Christ with our preconceived notions: we value our worldly treasures.

All: Worldly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were the treasures of the wise ones.

One: The Christ child gave them a spiritual gift, worth more than their worldly treasure.

All: The wise ones were transformed by the Christ-gift.

One: The wise ones returned home on a path different from the one they had planned to take.

All: In this new year, what different path is Christ beckoning us to take?

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE: (Leader)

God has brought us again to this place, where we can leave behind our confessions. And for these gifts of confession God says, "Thanks. Thanks for your honesty, your trust, your faith, your love." And the gift that God gives us this New Year is a new journey with the child who grows, and loves us, and lives for us.

Open Minds

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Scripture Reader: Sherrill Knight

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *Soloist~ Dennis Watson~ Joseph's Lullaby*

~ by Heisler and Kavanaugh

THE MESSAGE: *"Just Another New Year"*

Open Hands

†HYMN: *The First Nowell* (on-screen)

VU#91

MINUTE FOR MISSION: “

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS (*Leader*)

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Tithes, Offerings, & Prayers.

(*Please print clearly and place your Prayer Slips in the Prayer Baskets.*)

†OFFERTORY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Tune: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (on-screen)

VU#541

†OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Unison, on-screen*)

Use our offerings to teach us to sing your praise, O God. Teach us to sing with notes formed by hopes and acts of justice. Teach us to sing with harmonies shaped by mercy’s wide embrace. Teach us to sing Mary’s song of birth and rebirth for all creation as we join our songs to yours. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *All Who Are Thirsty* (on-screen)

MV#4

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: (*Leader*)

†HYMN: *I Am the Light of the World* (on-screen)

VU#87

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Bob, Dennis Watson, Kristin Raugust, Jan & Keith Campbell, Andrew Taylor-Kerr, Mark Wagner, Sherrill Knight, Tess & Harold Ashley.