



## **“Follow the Star”**

Matthew 2:1-12

January 3, 2021

**THORNDALE  
United Methodist Church**

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

**610-384-2433**

[www.thorndaleumc.org](http://www.thorndaleumc.org)

***All Are Welcome!***

## WELCOME/INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## +CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

**People: The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.**

Leader: Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.

**People: We, too, come to the stable, seeking the infant King.**

Leader: Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.

**People: God's Light of love is shining upon us. AMEN.**

## +OPENING PRAYER

**God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.**

## +GREETING in Sign Language

## PRAISE

***He Shall Reign Forevermore***

Tim Eaton

***First Noel / Three Kings Medley***

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pat Moore

## SCRIPTURE

**ISAIAH 60:1-6**

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

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.

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.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## TIME OF PRAISE &amp; PRAYER

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***Adore***

Tim Eaton

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness.

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*"Follow the Star"*

Bishop Peggy Johnson

CLOSING SONG

*Here I Am to Worship*

Tim Eaton

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*We Three Kings*

Lawrence Rappoldt

**SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

PASTOR  
MUSIC

Rev. Shauna K. Ridge  
Lawrence Rappoldt

WORSHIP TEAM SHEPHERDS:

LITURGIST

Tim Eaton  
Jennifer Lafferty

DOOR GREETER

Hannah Smith

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pat Moore

USHER 1

Wayne Barrows

TECH TEAM

Josh Dwyer

USHER 2

Cyndy Weiner

Terry Moore

TEMP TAKER

Laura Arndt

Jamie Ridge

ATTENDANCE

Wayne Barrows

FLOATER

Hannah Smith