



St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ
4344 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-7306
www.stjohnschapel.org

EPIPHANY

January 8, 2012

Epiphany Sunday

10:30 A.M.

(Denotes when all who are able to please stand.)*

Gathering

Meditative Prelude

played by Kyle Aho

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection.

The theme of today's worship will focus on what it mean to be on a pilgrimage like the wise ones. You might enjoy reflecting on Matthew 2: 1-12.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

Or you may wish to light a candle at the Communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is in your heart and mind.

Communion is also available during this time at the altar.

Lighting of Candles

10:30 A.M.

Ringling of Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Celebration**

Pastor: *And now will all who are able, please stand for the Call to Celebration.*

Who are the wise among us?

People: Those who follow the light of majesty in the heavens.

Pastor: *And lo, the star which they had seen at its rising went before them, until it stopped at the place where the child was.*

People: We too must follow the star. Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

Pastor: For we observed his star at its rising,
People: **And have come to pay him homage.**

***Hymn of Celebration**

“We Three Kings ”

No. 202

***Invocation**

Pastor: May God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray:

All: **Faithful God, in throwing the light of Christ into the heavens, You arouse us to be bathed in the dazzling glory of new life. Your love has come into our midst, interrupting the restless wondering of our lives; for the light of Christ has pierced our darkness and drawn us into the wonder of Your ways.**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

All: **Yet, we remain so afraid. You have told us so many times to fear not. You haven us light, freedom, power and the rapture of being alive. Our lives are marked by Your presence in the world. We have sought You and been bathed in Your glory. Yet, we confess that we fear sharing this good news with the world. We continue to live as if we are citizens of Babylon. We have lived so long in a competitive, adversarial place, defined in terms of a foreign empire that we fear what our peers will think of us more than what You think of us. We have received Jesus’ light but not lived as he taught.**

Forgive us and bless us with a wisdom that sees, a courage that speaks, and a love that comes from You. Amen.

Silent Meditation and Personal Confession

During this time of inward reflection and repentance, you may want to use “Examen,” which simply means an examining of our lives in a prayerful way. It is different from a prayer of confession in that it reviews both the good and the bad of our lives. You pause to look back over your week, or as many days as you wish to examine, and notice where you have partnered with God. In other words, when were you trying to do it alone and when did you ask God to assist you? You can also remember the events, encounters or insights that felt like gifts from God

and those that did not. Or remember the times in the day when you gave and received love, and when you did not give or receive love. Once your days are reviewed and examined, you may journal what you have uncovered, or simply imagine offering your insight up to God to let God love you just as you are.

***Words of Assurance**

***Gloria Patri**

(“Glory Be to the Father” No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Children’s Time

Joyce Burton

Anthem

“Oh, Happy Day”
Soloist: Sam Green

by Edwin R. Hawkins

Reading of Holy Scripture

Matthew 2: 1-12

p. 877

Sermon

“The Pilgrimage of the Wise Ones” The Rev. Becky Hébert



***Hymn**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Continued on the next page

Unison

1 Christ the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the
 2 Christ I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the shad - ows in -
 3. As we gaze on your **reigning** bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the World, shine up - on us,
 to your ra - diance; by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us: Shine on me,
 search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness: Shine on me,
 mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry: Shine on me,

shine on me. Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this
 land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry. Blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our
 na - tions with grace and mer - cy. Send forth your word, Lord, and
 let there be light! *rit.*

Last time

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Choral Response

Offertory

"Give Me Jesus"
Soloist: Sam Green

Arr. by Mark Hayes

***Doxology and Dedication Prayer**

("Praise God" No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***Offering Prayer**

All: Loving God,
may these gifts reveal to us and to others the star that points to
the birth of Your son.
And may the Light of this star lead us on into new and challenging
ways of living and serving. Amen.

***Hymn**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

No. 200

***Service of Holy Communion**

(pages 9-10 of *Worship Resources in pew rack*)

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** “Song of Hope”

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, Fill - ing all our
lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
on our way, Bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
Pray - ing, let us work for peace, Sing - ing, share our joy with all,
Work - ing for a world that's new, Faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

“Instrumental Postlude”

played by Kyle Aho

Our Mission Statement

St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.

Please remember the following people in prayer:

Kris Swanson– Daughter of Loy and Ken. Please pray that she remains cancer free.

Liz Jordan– She is at Walnut Lawn now. She is in Room 314

Remember our members who are unable to attend:

Flo Valentine at Ravenwood Assisted Living 1950 E. Republic Rd. Spfd. MO. 65804.

Virginia Steury at 1820 Plaza Drive Nixa, MO. 65714

**The Annual All Congregation Meeting is
next Sunday, January 15, 2012
Please have all reports turned in to the office
by Monday, January 9, 2012**

Our Stewardship for New Year's Day 2012

Worship: January 1 –64 Offering: -\$2,452.00

Sunday School: 8 Offering: \$ 12.00

The average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget is \$2,574.00

Please plan to stay after worship **TODAY** & help take down and store our Christmas tree, Chrismons, garland and wreaths. Thank you, everyone!

FOUND: A pair of glasses. They are on the desk in the office.

You, whether a member or guest, are an important and valuable part of this St. John's Chapel Community. Your participation in this worship service is a blessing. May you always know God's gift of unending love.

A nursery is available during worship for children up through three years of age. If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an usher.

Hearing-assistance devices are available for use during worship. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher to get one for you.

A memorial contribution has been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of

Earl Reed

By

The Women's Guild
Bob & Doris McMinn
Norman & Esther Steinhauer

The Endowment Fund
The Endowment Fund
The Endowment Fund

January 8, 2012

Elaine Tebbenkamp will open the church in January

TODAY: Worship.....10:30 am
 Epiphany Service
 Bring Crosslines Donations
 Independent Women meet1:00pm
Monday BOSM meet at Zio's Italian Kitchen.....6:00 pm
Tuesday FISH DAY
 The Brotherhood Meets at Scrambler's..... 8:00 am
 Grace & Weight.....5:30 pm
 Council meets at6:30 pm
Wednesday Choir Practice.....7:00 pm
Thursday No Women's Guild meeting in January

Next Sunday, January 15th:
All Congregational Annual Meeting
Please plan to attend