

The Festival of Epiphany

January 9, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *“The Three Kings”* and Trumpet Tune on *“March of the Kings”* G. Young

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

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

**We have seen the star in the sky
and have come to worship the Christ Child.**

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**The star is resting over Bethlehem,
and we come rejoicing, overwhelmed with joy.
Let us bring the gift of our hearts and the gift of
our lives to worship our God of light and
everlasting love.**

INVOCATION¹

O God of Light and Love,
who shines in our hearts as brightly
as the Bethlehem star,
we come together to give you praise.
You have come to us in the form
of a newborn babe,
and our hearts are filled with awe and with joy.
We rejoice in your love for us,
and we are grateful.

CONFESSION¹

Yet there are times when we are drawn away
from your light. We may feel inadequate,
unworthy, or less than perfect.
We forget that we are your children,
your beloved creations,
and that you reach out for us
even when we turn away from you.
Forgive us, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

The night is gone and the day has come.
Christ, the Light of the World,
born in the person of Jesus,
reminds us that God’s light and love are for all of
us — no matter who we are and
no matter what we have done.

We are loved and forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

EPIPHANY HYMN

vs. 1 & 3 NCH 160

“Jesus the Light of the World”

**Hark the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Refrain **We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.**

**Christ by highest heaven adored,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Word!
Jesus, the light of the world;**

Refrain

CHILDREN’S TIME *“Following a Star – Star Words”*

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For
darkness shall cover the earth, and thick
darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise
upon you, and his glory will appear over
you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings
to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

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, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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."

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MEDITATION

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

"Changing the Direction: the Kings"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

EPIPHANY HYMN Red Hymnal – UCC vs 1, 2 #118

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness those of old

Did the guiding star behold;

As with joy they hailed its light,

leading onward beaming bright;

So, most gracious God, may we

Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps the sped

To that lowly manger bed,

There to bend the knee before

Him whom heav'n and earth adore;

So may we with willing feet

Ever seek your mercy seat.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

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We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.



Announcements

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us in-person,
through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will experience the love of Christ
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM
and 1370AM**

**This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
by JoAnn Voss in celebration
of Wayne Voss's 80th birthday.**

- **Sunday, January 9th –
Take down Christmas decorations**
- **Tuesday, January 11th –
10 am - Neillsville Clergy Meeting at UCC
2 pm – Afghan Expl. Meeting
5 pm – Deacons Meeting**
- **Wednesday, January 12th –
6 pm – Confirmation**
- **Thursday, January 13th –
1:30 – Circle of Friends Meeting**

**PLEASE pick up your
2022 Offering Envelopes
in the Narthex**



We are **looking for help** in hosting coffee fellowship following Sunday worship. Duties include picking up donut holes, (already paid for by the church) making coffee, set up and clean up.

Sign up sheet located in Narthex.

Souper Bowl Challenge is on
with Neillsville area churches participating,
now thru Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th
Start bringing your soup cans

to the Narthex.
Last year's count
was close
395 UCC
352 St. Mary's
335 Calvary



**SOUPER
BOWL
CHALLENGE**