

St Andrew Worship January 9, 2022

Dial- 669 900 9128

Meeting ID 831 688 4211

Password 9850

Use *6 to unmute your phone

Meeting Times

Sunday at 10:30 Worship

www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn. Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Hymn 150 As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness.

We stumble around bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world.

Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem.

Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star.

Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light. Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

As certain as the dawn follows the night,
so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all.

Arise and Shine. Follow the star.

Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem ...
and be transformed from darkness into light.

Anthem Morning Meditation by Ben Logan played by Eileen Mihm

Prayers of the People Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

God, in your love, *Hear our prayer.*

Hymn 152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;" and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

Prayer for Illumination (Responsive)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

2 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. 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.

Second Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

60 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.
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.

Sermon

"Season of Revelation"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Affirmation

We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath.

We believe in Jesus Christ, born Emmanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God; he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us and being raised from the dead for our sake and for the sake of all the world.

We believe that he will come again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, continually poured out refreshing our lives, leading us into a new day, ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world. This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth reminding us of the gift of faith, the ever presence of God and the promise of eternal life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Offertory Music

We Three Kings

played by Eileen Mihm

Doxology

Offering Prayer (responsive)

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.

Amen.

Hymn 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Benediction