

St. Timothys United Methodist Church
3220 Terrace Drive
319-266-0464
<http://www.sttims-umc.org/>



January 11, 2009 – 10:15 am
1st Sunday after the Epiphany of the Lord

(Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available. A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade. Ask an usher to help you.)

Gathering

Prelude

"Swiss Noel with Variations"

Daquin

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship

Responsively

Leader: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

All: the manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

L: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

All: we offer ourselves and what we have.

L: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad.

***Opening Hymn**

"Sing We Now of Christmas" Red hymnal, 237 (v 1,4,5)

Unison Prayer

Guiding God, bless us on the road we have chosen to seek your star. Light-shedding God, light up our minds with your truth that helps us overcome the bad-news Herods and keep on going toward that certain light in the sky of our lives. Beckoning God, help us to bring gifts worthy of the Christ. Then, we too shall be known by you as wise women and men. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Praying

Call to Prayer "We Three Kings" Red hymnal, 254 (refrain)

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(After each joy or concern, we sing "**Guide us to thy perfect light.**")

Silent Prayer

***Passing the Peace**

Listening to the Word

The Christian Gospel Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible, 2

Anthem "Three Kings" – Matthew Armstrong Chancel Choir Men

Sermon "The Gifts of the Magi" Dick Clark

Sermon Response "In the Bleak Midwinter" Red hymnal, 221

Responding to the Word

Announcements and Opportunities

Offertory Sentence Liturgist

"Who are the wise men now, when all is told?
Not men of science; not the great and strong;
Not those who wear a kingly diadem;
Not those whose eager hands pile high the gold;
But those amid the tumult and the throng
Who follow still the star of Bethlehem."
-B.Y. Williams

Offertory "Fantasy On A French Carol" Franck

***Dedication Hymn** "In the Bleak Midwinter" Red hymnal, 221

***Prayer of Dedication** Unison

As Wise Men brought their gifts most rare, so we would offer our hearts and lives as the gifts which you most desire, O God. Follow with your graciousness these tangible signs of our commitment, as we dedicate them to the purpose of sharing your Light and Love and Justice in this community and in the world beyond. Through Him who is your greatest gift of Love and Justice, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrating Holy Communion

The Invitation to Communion

This is the Lord's Table. We are all invited without exception because Jesus, our Lord, invites us all without exception. The Spirit calls us to gather, to come to this place and meet the Living Jesus. Come with open hands and open hearts. Come now and take your place at this table where Jesus is Host.

The Great Thanksgiving

Red hymnal, 15-16

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Sharing the Bread and Cup**

(Everyone is invited to come forward, receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Please bring a Communion offering for our St. Tims Hunger Fund, which helps provide food, utilities, and rent for needy families.)

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, giver of all good things, empower us through our sharing of bread and wine to be your people, to proclaim in word and deed the love you have for all. May this holy food nourish and sustain us on our life journeys as we seek to follow Jesus. May his vision of your compassionate heart be our vision. May his courage be our courage. Now, send us out into the world you love, to care for that world and all life within it. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Going Forth

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| *Closing Song | "The First Noel" | Red hymnal, 245 |
| *Blessing | | |
| *Blessing Response | "In the Bleak Midwinter" | Red hymnal, 221 |
| *Postlude | "Old French Noel – Ye Burghers All" | Warner |

* = The Congregation is invited to stand
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