

## Epiphany Sunday



### Welcome

### Prelude

*William Zeitler*

### Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

Wise God, you are older than the ages  
And you dance in the starlight

✘ **And you love us.**

Wise God, you share your bread with strangers  
And welcome little children.

✘ **And you understand us.**

Wise God, you wrestle with the powerful  
And comfort all who need you

✘ **And you disturb us.**

Wise God, shining in darkness, seen by those who love you  
Found by those who seek you.

✘ **We are here to learn from you.**

Let us worship now.

### Hymn: We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

### Time with the Children

### 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. 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

<sup>1</sup> ©2001 The Iona Community, from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications

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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.

**Reflection**

*Sandy Tice*

**Sung Response: We Three Kings**

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

**Morning Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer**

✠ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory, forever. Amen.

**Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**