

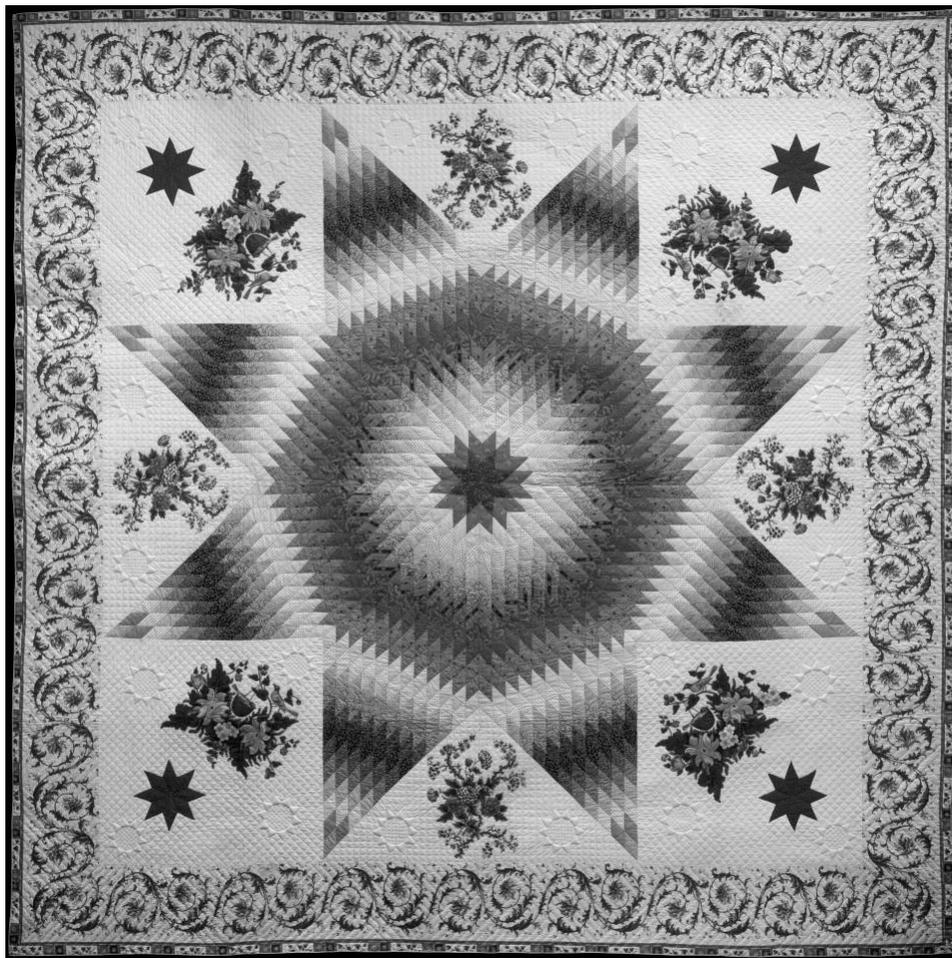


INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6624 Public Square, Independence, Ohio; (216) 524-6307; office@ipcusa.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2021



Star of Bethlehem Quilt. Circa 1835.

C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Eldrich Carr, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*This star is the symbol of the inward illumination
that enlightens souls in order to call them to God.*

-Columba Marmion

GATHERING

Gathering Prayer

Prelude

“What Child Is This?”

by William Chatterton Dix; arr. Vince Guaraldi

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*based on Jeremiah 31 and Isaiah 60*)*

Sing praise to God, who gathers us here;

from the ends of the earth we come.

With a word of promise, a spring of water,

a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,

God turns our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy.

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

Behold the glory of the Lord.

In the light of Christ, come let us worship God.

Alleluia!

Hymn

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

GTG #151

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Time of Silent Confession.]

Response

Kyrie Eleison

arr. C.J. Briggs

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God's goodness:
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Bible *Isaiah 60:1-6* (NRSV)

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12* (NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of faith (*from A Declaration of Faith*)

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Alleluia. Amen.

Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The 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.

Eucharist

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our praise.**

...Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Hymn

“The First Nowell”

GTG #147

SENDING

Hymn

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

GTG #136

Benediction

Postlude

“What Child Is This?”

Linus and Lucy from Charlie Brown Christmas Special by Vince Guaraldi



Pieces of today's liturgy are from *Presbyterian Outlook*, Roger Gench;
Feasting on the Word, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long
GTG = *Glory to God* (PCUSA Hymnal)

*For all responsive liturgy, leader will read the parts in regular type,
and the congregation may respond with the words in bold.