

To our Visitors

We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus; may you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex, and we welcome you for join us for snacks.

Pray always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In Need of Prayer

Rosie, Linda's daughter, deep grieving  
Brenda, for health  
Ed, for mobility, back pain  
Nancy, health and sustaining grace  
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa  
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis  
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill  
College students, for continuing faith  
Jennet family, illness and deaths  
Linda S, breathing concerns  
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)  
Marie, employment and comfort  
Donna's family, Dan, recent heart surgery.  
Jen: healing of ankle, father's chemo, friend in Israel  
Family of Enrique, grief  
Sue Rojek, complications after eye surg.  
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer.  
Homeless, for shelters

In Need of Prayer

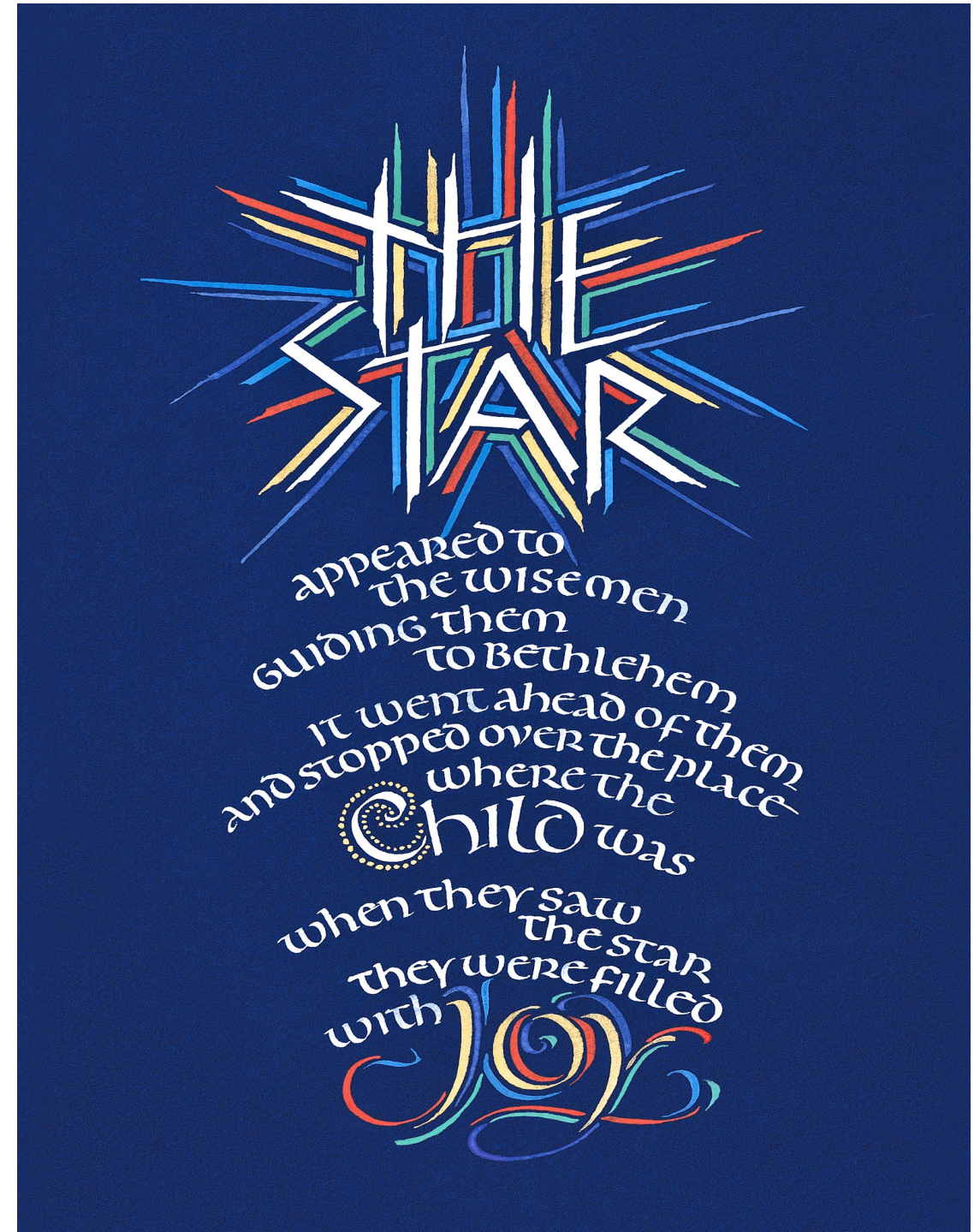
Bunny Rector, recent fall with injuries, weakness  
Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis  
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer  
Glad, in rehab, pray for increased strength  
Benita, prayer for normal blood counts, and encouragement  
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving  
Judy V. and family in Florida  
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family  
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family  
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer  
Willy, 76, needs Jesus  
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer  
Our Military: Andrew, son of Craig M, deployed to Qatar.  
Mary, friend of Karen, back surgery, lives alone  
Shiv, for rest and peace

Recent giving: December 24: \$5,719  
Giving on December 31: \$6,940  
Additional gifts of \$1,600

Please continue to pray for the ministries of Tim North and Rob & Joyce Hamd in areas being threatened by war. Pray for their safety, for ways to continue to impact the people near them with the Gospel. See today's enclosed flyer.

Heidelberg Catechism Q 7. From where, then, did man's depraved nature come?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise, for there our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.





CHRIST

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**JANUARY 7, 2024**

Epiphany Sunday

**Gathering Song: We Three Kings** (bulletin page 7)

† **Call to Worship** (1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

**People: But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.**

Pastor: God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

**Unison: It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.**

† **Hymn: Sing We Now of Christmas** (page 8)

† **Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This Bible study group has resumed meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 o'clock. They will study the book of Daniel. For more information, please call Judy Dellinger at 734-386-6449.

## Offering Envelopes

If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, you will find them on the narthex. They are in alphabetical order.

**First Scripture Reading**

Reader Today: Bruce Terras

**Acts 17:1-15 Responsive**

<sup>17</sup> When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.<sup>2</sup> As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures<sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.

**“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.<sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.**

<sup>5</sup> But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

<sup>6</sup> **But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,<sup>7</sup> and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”**

<sup>8</sup> When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.<sup>9</sup> Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

<sup>10</sup> **As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.<sup>11</sup> Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.<sup>12</sup> As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.**

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.<sup>14</sup> The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea.

<sup>15</sup> **Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.**

**Matthew 24:4-14 Responsive**

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed.

**Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup>Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of birth pains.**

<sup>9</sup>"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup>At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup>and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

**<sup>12</sup>Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup>but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**† Hymn: Once in Royal David's City (page 9)**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

Offertory: How Excellent is Thy Name , O Lord  
Yuta Sugano

arr. M. Hayes

**† Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Sing We Now of Christmas

### Revelation 6:11 Responsive

<sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. <sup>10</sup> They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

**<sup>11</sup> Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.**

### 2 Thessalonians 1:1-13 Responsive

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**<sup>3</sup> We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.**

<sup>5</sup> All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. <sup>6</sup> God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you <sup>7</sup> and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

**This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**

<sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might <sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

**<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. <sup>12</sup> We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon: Notes on the Return of Jesus**

Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

† **Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old** (page10)

† **Responsive Litany** (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

**Pastor:** I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

**People:** **For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.**

**Pastor:** Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus ` Christ to be revealed.

**People:** **He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Unison:** **God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**