

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 5, 2020

11:00 AM



1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
(610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Andante”

(Handel)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

please rise

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: **The brightness of God’s light shines upon
all the nations. All are welcomed to the
brightness of God’s dawn.**

Leader: God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts,
we receive the abundance God gives.

People: **We respond in praise. With our gifts,
with our very selves, we worship God.**

GATHERING HYMN

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Glory to God 118

CALL TO CONFESSION

those who desire to kneel, may do so at this time

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

in unison

God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.

silent prayer of confession

KYRIE

Unison A D E A

1 Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, ky - ri -
2 Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri -

e e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
ste e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that reason, God sent the Son into the world – not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

We declare the good news of the Gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

RESPONSE

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Glory to God 591

PASSING THE PEACE

*Let us greet one another with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

THE CHILDREN’S TIME

please be seated

HYMN

please rise

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Glory to God 151

THE SCRIPTURE READING

please be seated

Hebrew Lesson	Isaiah 60:1-6	<i>page 690</i>
Epistle Lesson	Ephesians 3:1-12	<i>page 193</i>

please rise

Gospel Lesson	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>page 2</i>
---------------	----------------	---------------

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

MISSION MOMENT

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

DOXOLOGY

please rise

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts.

People: **We open them up to our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of Light.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Bright shining God, inner light of all faithful souls, we celebrate your gifts of love, creation, and art. We rejoice that you have made us in your image and call us to live in your limitless love. You bring peoples and leaders to the dawn of your rising. You sent your only child, our morning star, to light a way in our night and lead us to justice and peace. Your Holy Spirit shines good news into our lives. Each daybreak you call us to feed the hungry, bring recovery of sight, liberate the oppressed, heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds, and keep watch for the dawn of your commonwealth on earth. For all of this we give you thanks. And we praise you, joining our voices with all life on earth and the company of heaven, who forever sing their hymns to proclaim the glory of your name.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Glory to God 498

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.

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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, saying, this cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me.

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Leader: By your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup that they may become for us the presence of Christ among us. Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives. Enlighten us that we may be your people, the body of the risen Christ, the light of the world, set apart to serve this earth that you have made.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever, O Eternal Light.

People: Amen.

silence

PARTAKING OF THE MEAL

We will receive communion at the chancel rail this morning. The ushers will escort you up the center aisle. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisles. If you are unable to come to the chancel rail for communion, please remain in your seat and the pastor will bring the communion elements to you.

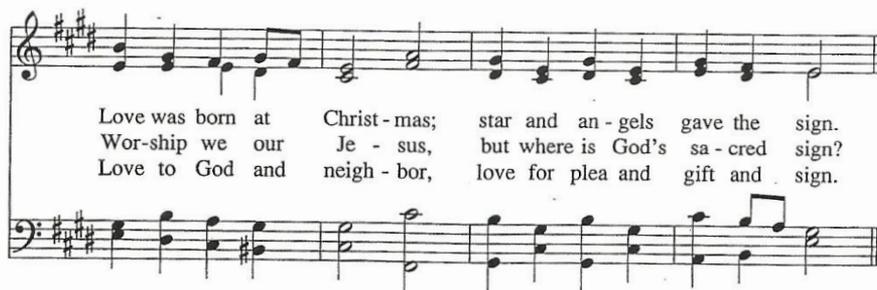
CLOSING HYMN

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Christina G. Rossetti, 1885; alt.



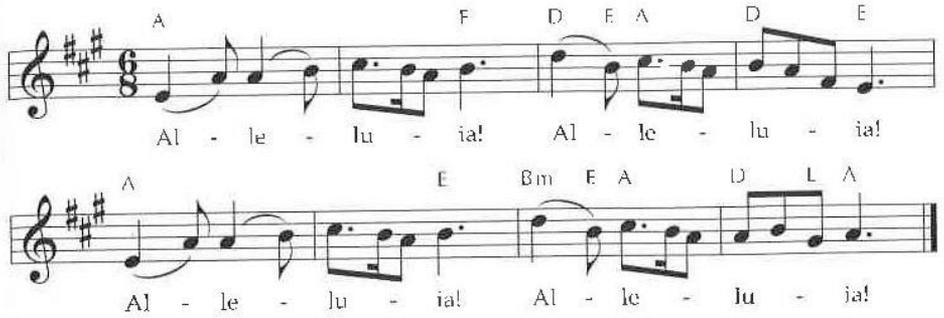
1 Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;



Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
Wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where is God's sa - cred sign?
Love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff has a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, F, D, E, A, D, E. The second staff has a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, Bm, E, A, D, L, A. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Two Part Invention #14” (J.S. Bach)

Questions for Reflection

Can you think of a dark time in your own life or a dark time in the history of the world when God's glory shone? When the light of Christ's presence became evident? When was that time? What happened? Who was a bearer of light in that darkness? Is there presently someone you know, or some situation weighed down in darkness or despair? How can you be a light-bearer for that person, that circumstance?

Household Prayer: Morning

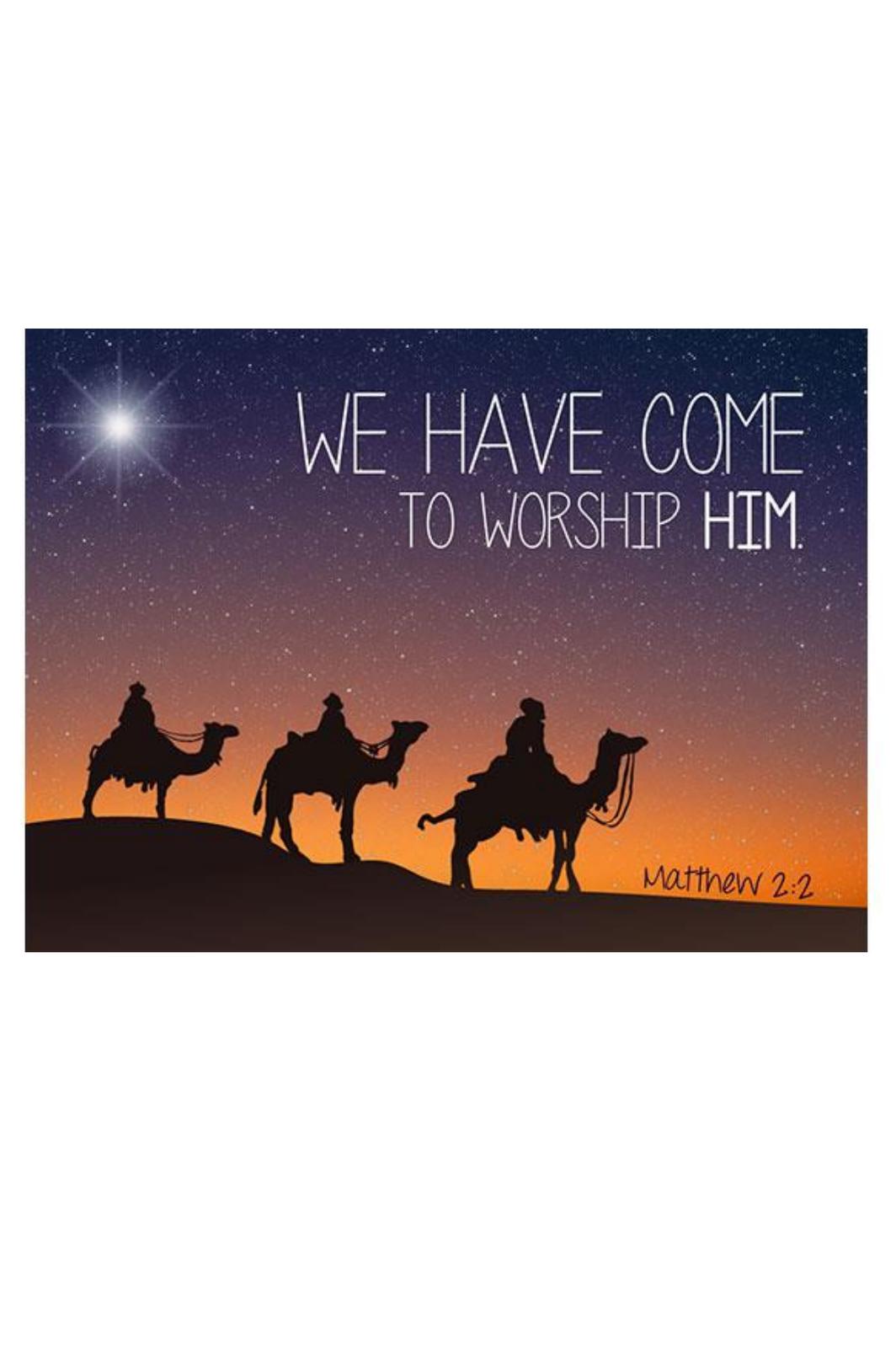
God of this new morning, you have awakened me to the brightness of your dawn. I begin this day in gratitude, recalling your mercies through the night, anticipating glimpses of your glory in the hours ahead. Make my face shine today with the joy of your grace, so that another is helped to see your presence and find hope. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of love, as the sun has set and night has come, I will not be afraid of the darkness, for you are with me. Your glory never recedes, but is always expanding, bringing more and more people into the sphere of your love. Thank you for such boundless grace as has been given in Jesus Christ. Make me a prism for the light of Christ, reflecting his grace to others all my days. In his name I pray. Amen.

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in memory of my beloved friend, Janet Koert,
by Barbara Montague-Graham*

*The bulletins are given to the Glory of God,
in honor of Jody Bontcue, by Sally Shaw*

An illustration of three wise men on camels following a bright star in a starry night sky. The scene is set against a gradient background from dark blue at the top to orange at the bottom, with a silhouette of a hill in the foreground. The text 'WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.' is written in white, uppercase letters in the upper right. The text 'Matthew 2:2' is written in a cursive font in the lower right.

WE HAVE COME
TO WORSHIP HIM.

Matthew 2:2

*Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

-Psalm 72





We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to you during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Ministers | All the people of the Congregation |
| Pastor | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier |
| Minister of Music | Dan Weckerly |
| President of the Consistory | Liz Brunton |
| Vice President of the Consistory | Michele Luke |
| Secretary of the Consistory | Molly Lorenz |
| Moderator of Spiritual Council | |
| Elders: | Liz Brunton, Joan Hagerman, Mary Lambon
Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague-Graham |
| Chair of the Diaconate | Michele Luke |
| Deacons: | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce
Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman |
| Church Secretary | Judy Parker |
| Sexton | Emeric Suto |
| Treasurer | Sandy Maben |

Telephone: (610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Please like us on Facebook and check-in here:

Reformed Church of the Ascension, United Church of Christ

Follow us on Twitter @AscensionUCC