



WONDROUS
STAR
*I am...
the bright Morning Star*

Revelations 22:16



The Setauket Presbyterian Church

“As active disciples of Jesus Christ, we celebrate and share the love of God among ourselves and with others.”

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Epiphany

January 4, 2015

9:30 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Ringling of the Steeple Bell

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship (Matthew 2:1-3,7-12, CEV)

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king.

During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too.”

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him.

They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

* Hymn (insert) *From a Distant Home*

Puerto Rican Tres Reyes (Epiphany) carol

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

God of grace and glory, we come before you acknowledging our failure to live in the light of your promise in Christ Jesus. So often, in weariness or fear, we want you to act through someone else—anyone but us. So often we do harm when we mean to do good. So often we see all the hurt in your world and despair of doing any good at all. We forget that only you are God. We forget that we can do all things in Christ who strengthens us. Raise our spirits, renew our hope, and empower us to do your gracious will. Work through us to make a better world, and in so doing, gladden our hearts, open our minds, and strengthen the ties that bind us to one another and to you, for we pray in the strong name of Jesus, our brother, our savior, the Light of the World...

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection) Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Gloria (refrain from Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*)
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Children should proceed to their church school class.)

HEARING THE WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 150, Verse 1

***As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.***

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14

THE SERMON *Joining the Neighborhood*

The Rev. Mary B. Speers

* HYMN 158 *Born in the Night, Mary's Child*

MARY'S CHILD

THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

(Please sign the Friendship Rosters found at the end of the pew,
noting the name of fellow worshippers when it is returned.)

* Doxology (Hymn 147, verse 6 - *The First Nowell*)

***Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought: Nowell, Nowell...born is the King of Israel!***

* Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you, and in returning these offerings to you, we offer our lives in your service. Follow these gifts with your blessing, that your light may shine in the darkest night. AMEN.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

* Hymn (insert) *All Beautiful, the March of Days*

FOREST GREEN

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, with Intercessions

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 God thanks and praise.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please hold the elements until all are served.)

Prayer after Communion (from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And forget not all God's benefits.

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for the light you have poured into our hearts, and pledge ourselves in turn to pour that light into the world you so love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

* HYMN 853 *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

SIYAHAMBA

*** BENEDICTION**

**The benediction of the God of Sarah, Hagar and Abraham,
The benediction of the Son, who was born of Mary,
The benediction of the Holy Spirit of love,
Who watches over us like a mother for her children,
Descend upon us all. Amen.**

(We join with the members of our sister church in San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba in sharing this benediction on the first Sunday of each month.)

RESPONSE *Cuban Benediction*

arr. Mark Orton

POSTLUDE

please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.*

Large print bulletins, Bibles, hymnals and listening devices are available; please ask a Deacon.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- 9:00 Knitting at 9 in the Parlor
9:30 Worship Service and the Rev. Mary Speers preaching; Childcare (ages 1 - 3)
9:45 Church School (Preschool through 6th Grade)
11:00 Adult Education Class in the Jr./Sr. High Room
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