



# *Epiphany Sunday*

January 8, 2023 @ 10:00 am

**Church of The Cross**

*475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169  
(847) 885-1199*

## WELCOME ALL

PRELUDE

Dr. Robert K.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Julie Peterson

CHORAL INTROIT “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” (*Traditional French Carol*) COTC Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Arise, Your Light is Come!”

*GTG #744*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jim L.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

**We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.**

OUR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Julie Peterson

**\*RESPONSE OF JOY**

*GTG #100, refrain only*

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn,  
...and the world is about to turn. (*last phrase is repeated*)**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

“Jesus Loves Me”

## SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jim L.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Star Light

Rev. Julie Peterson

## OFFER HOPE ...IN JESUS' NAME

\*HYMN

"What Child is This" (vs1-2)

GTG # 145

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH<sup>2</sup>

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27*

Jim L.

**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"From a Cradle to a Cross" (*John Carter*)

COTC Choir

\*DOXOLOGY

*(you are invited to use these words, or others more familiar to you)*

GTG #606

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jim L.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

"What Child is This" (vs3)

GTG # 145

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING<sup>1</sup>

People of the Christ Child: the Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.**

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**We will sing our praises to the One**

**who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos. You whispered, and your glory filled the skies. ... You sang, and the dust of the earth was shaped into your image, as you breathed life into us.

Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns!**

**All creation renders tributes of praise to you. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy. Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Overwhelmed with compassion, he left the glory of heaven, to become a prisoner of sin, so we could be set free. ... So, as we remember his birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

**Christ came, the morning star of love; Christ died, the night star of salvation;**

**Christ was raised, the radiant star of resurrection.**

**Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.**

Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, and on the gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children. ... so we, overwhelmed with joy, would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten; to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

**And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our siblings of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

#### COMMUNING TOGETHER

*Prepackaged Communion Cups are available on the table in the narthex.*

*Those who are comfortable, are invited to come forward to receive the elements.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION<sup>1</sup>

**God of Creation, nourished by your grace, you now send us out by a different road so we may find those who have been left by the side of the world. Lord Jesus, you now walk with us down a different road so we may serve those who are lonely and frightened. Holy Spirit, you now illuminate a different road so we may take our siblings by the hand to walk in wonder and grace. Holy in One, open our hearts to pay attention to the many different roads your love calls us to travel. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, The Light of Your Light is Shining”

*GTG #192*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace” (*George Whelpton*)

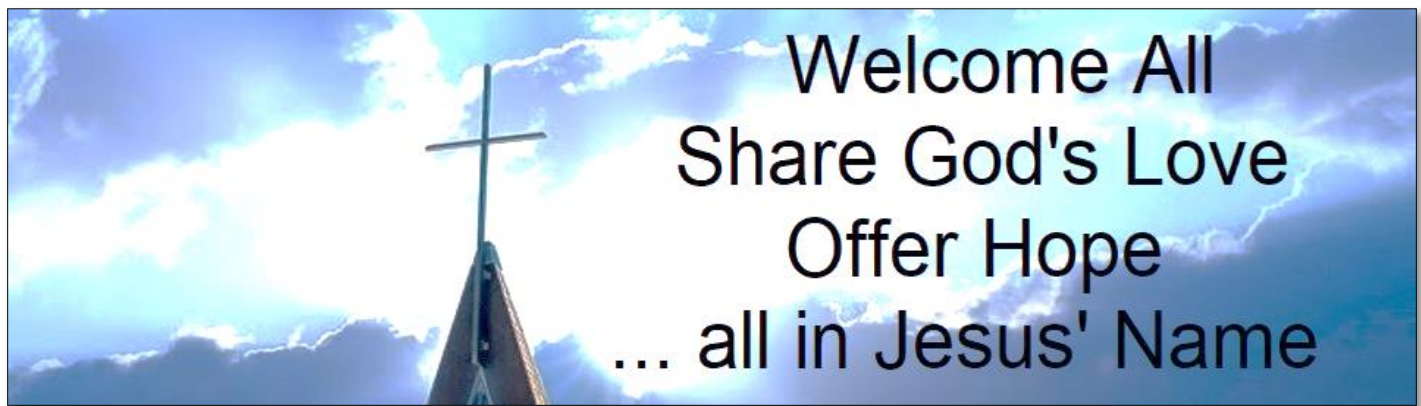
COTC Choir

\*POSTLUDE

Dr. Robert K.

<sup>1</sup>Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies ©2022, reprinted with permission.

<sup>2</sup>Call to Worship 5601A, © 2023 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



**Brenden** (family of Laura D's co-worker)  
**Linda A** (sister of Judy M)  
**Dr George A** (friend of Adelaide)  
**Rev Charlie** (Bob L's friend)  
**Beth B** (Stu R's sister)  
**Mildred B**  
**Mary Ann B**  
**Sushma B**  
**Patrick C** (Stu/Marie's son-in-law)  
**Renee C** (Laura's sister-in-law)  
**Tom C** – Ann M's brother-in-law  
**Jim C** (Mary Ann's son-in-law)  
**Patti C** (Karen F's friend)  
**Sabina C** (Adelaide's sister-in-law)  
**Chuck** (Laura's brother)  
**Linda D** (Jim/ Sue's relative)  
**Betty F** (Chris L's mother)  
**Karen F**  
**Brian/Kim** (Adelaide's neighbors)  
**Adelaide G**  
**Allen G** (friend of Glenna/Hank M)  
**Bruce & Linda G** (friends of Stu/Marie)  
**Heather H** (Mike/Chris L's friend)  
**Rita H** (Jim/Ann's relative)  
**Jack H** (friend of Mike/ Chris L)  
**Drew I** (Mary/George R's son-in-law)  
**Jessica** (Charlie/Nancy's niece)  
**Mary Ellen K** (friend of Dave W)  
**Andy L** (Mike L's brother)

**Bob L**  
**Karen L** (Chris/Mike's daughter)  
**Michael L** (Donna's son-in-law)  
**Phyllis L**  
**Judy Mc**  
**Ernie M** (friend of Adelaide)  
**Fritz/Fay M**  
**Crisann M** (friend of Mike/Chris L)  
**Don M** (Hank and Glenna's son)  
**Douglas M** (Hank M's brother)  
**Gary M** (friend of Cathy W)  
**Judy M**  
**Lisa M** (Karen's daughter)  
**Roberta M** (Jim M's sister)  
**Steve M**  
**Susan M**  
**Opal** (Donna H's mom)  
**Kevin O** (Terri H's)  
**Tom R** (Sue Li.'s brother)  
**Lowell S** (Marie's cousin)  
**Judie T**  
**Karen W** (Judie T's friend)  
**Caregivers**  
**People devastated by terrorism**  
**Our world and all affected by COVID-19**  
**Families who grieve losses**

- **Mark/Karen Carlson family on loss of Mark's mother** (Sue Li's friends)
- **Jim Foster family** (John/Cheryl's friend)



Sunday, January 8 <b><i>Epiphany Sunday</i></b>	10 am – Worship Service with Communion 11 am – Coffee Hour
Tuesday, January 10	11 am – 1 pm ~ Lilies Clothes Closet No Zoom gathering 1:30 pm – Corp Ops Meeting
Wednesday, January 11	10 am – 12 noon ~ Clothes Closet Workday No Lunch with pastor Julie 7 pm – Book Club
Thursday, January 12	4 pm – 6 pm ~ Lilies Clothes Closet 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 15 <b><i>Install/Ordain Sunday</i></b>	10 am – Worship Service 11 am – Coffee Hour
<b>NOTE: Pastor Julie will be on Study Leave from Sunday, 1/8/23 @ 2 pm returning to the office on Thursday, 1/12/23</b>	

## Contact Us

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Office Manager - Vanessa Brand

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Thank you to the following people  
for hosting coffee hour in 2022.

Sushma Begari  
Susan Buchholz  
Karen Franz  
Ken and Pat Groenewold  
Nancy Keppel  
Jim and Sue Letterer  
Chris Lorentz  
Lois McPherson  
Fay Michaelis  
Ann Moorman  
Jeff and Pastor Julie Peterson  
George and Mary Rogers  
Judie Truelsen  
Cathy Walker  
Cheryl Wilkins



## **FLOWER ARRANGEMENT DEDICATION**

**The flower arrangement this week is from  
Pat and Ken G. in memory of their brother, Ron.**

## **BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, January 11** - The Book Woman's Daughter by Kim Michele Richardson (Sequel to The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek)

**Wednesday, February 15** - Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris

Please email Judie at [judietrue@gmail.com](mailto:judietrue@gmail.com) for Zoom details

# CHURCH STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERS

## Staff

Pastor - The Rev. Julie G. Peterson  
Office Manager - Vanessa Brand

Choir Director - Marie Rutter  
Organist - Dr. Robert Kania

## Session

Clerk - Pat Groenewold

### Elders, Class of 2023

James Buchholz  
Laura De La Cruz  
Cathy Walker

### Elders, Class of 2024

Ken Groenewold, Treasurer  
Charlie Keppel  
Sue Liautaud

### Elders, Class of 2025

Stu Rutter  
Stu Truelsen  
Cheryl Wilkins

## Deacons

### Deacons, Class of 2023

Naana Grant-Acquah  
Fay Michaelis  
Ann Moorman

### Deacons, Class of 2024

Nancy Keppel, Moderator  
Sue Letterer  
Jeff Peterson

### Deacons, Class of 2024

Susan Buchholz  
Lois McPherson  
Glenna Morgan

## Corporation Officers

President - Jim Letterer  
Vice President - Jim Vakoc  
Treasurer - Ken Groenewold  
Secretary - Pat Groenewold

Member at large – John Harmon  
Member at large – Charlie Keppel  
Member at large - Terry Maulding  
Member at large - Hank Morgan