

# WORSHIP GUIDE for JANUARY 9, 2022

## SETTING YOUR SPACE

Hi, Friends! This Sunday we begin our Epiphany season in earnest – our taking up of the “big questions” of our faith. I’ve wanted to do a series like this for a long time with you all, and I’m excited about the questions that are coming in and the possibilities ahead for exploring with you. This first week, I’m grouping together several questions I’ve received about the Bible. Since it’s foundational for our life of faith together, it seemed like a good place to start. So come – or join in from home – ready to ask, ready to share, ready to learn. We could probably never exhaust our questions of the Bible, but we’ll tackle a few of them together this Sunday.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Prelude – Geoff Clayton, Pianist**

**Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor**

**Gathering Song: *You are Salt for the Earth, O People* (NC #181)**

**– Nancy McCann, Bob McCann, Susan Chambers, Judee Kunze,  
Geoff Clayton**

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God  
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God  
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God

### **Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer *from Bret Hesla***

**- Susan Chambers**

Gracious Spirit, who loves us like a mother, whose realm is blooming among us now and within: We pray that your compassion guides us in every action. Give us what we need for each day, and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone. Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness without our asking, may we reconcile ourselves to one another in humility. And may we cancel the crushing debts that imprison our neighbors so that communities of joy and health may flourish. May we neither profit from nor ignore evil, but ever work to thwart it with non-violence as we co-create the realm of peace in this world, now and each day. Amen.

### **Children's Time - Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister**

#### **Scripture: Psalm 119:17-24**

*Be good to your faithful one, that I may live and keep your words.*

*Open my eyes and let me ponder the wonders of your law.*

*No matter where I am on earth, I am a foreigner;*

*don't hide your commands from me.*

*I am eaten up with longing for your ordinances all the time.*

*You rebuke the arrogant with a curse*

*for turning away from your commands.*

*Take scorn and contempt away from me, for I keep your decrees.*

*Though tyrants conspire and testify against me,  
your faithful one meditates on your statutes.  
Yes, your decrees are my delight – they are my counselors.*

**Sermon: “Questions about the Bible” – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**Testimony – Jennifer Williams**

**Response Song: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (NC #154)**

**– Nancy McCann, Bob McCann, Susan Chambers, Judee Kunze,  
Geoff Clayton**

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**One: Gracious One, in your mercy...**

**All: ...hear our prayers.**

## Closing Words

### Going Forth Song: *I am the Light of the World* (NC #584)

- Nancy McCann, Bob McCann, Susan Chambers, Judee Kunze,  
Geoff Clayton

I am the light of the world. You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of  
What you were meant to do and be

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the sages and the shepherds  
have found their way home  
the work of Christmas is begun

I am the light of the world. You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of  
What you were meant to do and be

To find the lost and lonely one  
To heal the broken soul with love  
To feed the hungry children  
with warmth and good food  
To feel the earth below, the sky above

I am the light of the world. You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of  
What you were meant to do and be

To bring hope to every task you do  
To dance at a baby's new birth  
To make music in an old person's heart  
And sing to the colors of the earth

I am the light of the world. You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of  
What you were meant to do and be

**Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

One: Friends, ... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

**Postlude – Geoff Clayton**

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