

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 2, 2022 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WORDS TO PONDER

Wisdom is a gift from God.

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look around, see the light.

People: Like sunrise, the light of God comes upon us.

Leader: Look around, see the light come to you.

People: Nothing stops the light of sunrise.

Leader: Lift up your eyes.

Unison: Look around, see the light.

OPENING HYMN: *As with Gladness Men of Old* #123 Red

CALL TO CONFESSION

Come, all who have dwelled in the shadows. Come, all who have missed or ignored God's revelation. Confess now all that separates you from God's intention for you and all that divides you from your sisters and brothers. Come, to know the wholeness God intends for you in Christ Jesus.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We acknowledge, Lord, that we sometimes have trouble following Your path. The other highways seem so broad. The side streets promise so much enchantment. The crossroads beckon with so much mystery. The neon lights promise so much fun. The dark alleys ensure so much secrecy. And yet, we know deep down that only as

we follow in Your footsteps can we find our way to fulfillment and to eternal life. So, we ask, Lord, that You will forgive our wanderings and lead us in the way that is right.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Arise, shine, for your light has come. The glory of God has risen upon you and will be seen through you. Be radiant in your praise and service. Rejoice in the gift of God's grace. Witness with confidence to your faith in Jesus Christ.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-18

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

SERMON: "Seekers"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Sisters and brothers, let us lift our hearts in faith to the One who hears all prayers and holds close all those in need. Holy God, You gather the whole universe into Your radiant

presence and continually reveal Your Son as our Savior. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see Your glory and know You are the Christ.

UNISON COMMUNION PRAYER

Bright Morning Star, Your light has come, and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the Magi of long ago, may we be drawn to You and offer You such gifts as we are able. AMEN

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Behold the true Light of the world, the Beloved of God, anointed by the Spirit. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

UNISON BENEDICTION

Lord God, You want the whole world to know that You have sent Jesus Your Son to save us from our sins. Give us a share of Your power, so that we will be like bright stars leading others to discover Him, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. AMEN

CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus Shall Reign*

#371 Red