

***Grace Presbyterian Church***  
*Rooted in Christ, grounded in the Bible*  
*Growing in Faith*  
*Helping Others*



***"Awake My Soul" 2011, Artist: Moyers, Mike***

***God is here and welcomes you. If you are a visitor and looking for a church home, be assured you are welcome. We are a people who seek to respond to God's love in Christ and we invite you to join us.***

***Grace Presbyterian Church Worship***  
***January 5th, 2025***  
***EPIPHANY SUNDAY***  
***REVS. TED ANDERSON and TRISH ECKERT***

**PRELUDE**

(\*Please stand as you are able)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*God of the weary traveler, our feet are dusty from the roads we've traveled this past week, this past year, every day of our lives.*

**We've followed your star here, looking for a glimmer of hope.**

*And now, after a long journey, we set our baggage down. We have arrived.*

**We're here, and we're on holy ground.**

*You may not show up where we expect you, but we trust that you are here nevertheless.*

**Be known to us in the HOPE of the star, the PEACE of a baby snuggled in the manger, the JOY of arrival, and LOVE that could not stay away.**

*We are here. You are here.*

**And we are so very grateful. AMEN!**

**\*HYMN #143, vs. 1, 3**      “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,*

**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, and 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.**  
(Silent Reflection)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Look up at the heavens! See the stars! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us. This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE: #591 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**STARS DISTRIBUTION** (Instructions for receiving)

- In-Person: We invite you to draw a star from the basket as it is passed to you. (Ushers share baskets)
- Virtual: A member of our team will draw a word for you and type it into the chat.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (John 1:1-3)

*“In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through God.” As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word--your light shining in the darkness. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE**     Isaiah 60:1-6     Matthew 2:1-12

**SERMON**             “Stars in the Heavens”  
                             Reverend Ted Anderson

**\*HYMN #137**        “He Came Down”

**COMMUNION** (See Insert)

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY #606** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Holy God, we bring our gifts before you this morning. We have no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh—but what we have we give to you. Use our gifts of money to meet the needs of our community both inside and beyond these walls. Use our gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love to enable and empower us to do amazing things. Bless our gifts of worship. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**\*HYMN #136, vs. 1-3** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain!”

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (John 1:12)

*Children of God, go forth into the world and join God’s work. May the God of all times and places continue to guide you here and now; may the Holy Spirit that swept over the waters of creation continue to give you Strength, and may the light of Christ, through whom all things came into being, continue to shine through each of you until we are all gathered together again. Go in peace.*

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      Seven-Fold Alleluia

## **POSTLUDE**

“Prayer by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.” If you adapt the prayers, please include the following credit line: “Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”