

Epiphany of the Lord – January 5, 2025 – 10:30am

## **Order of Worship**

### **The Community Gathers**

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

What gift shall we bring to treasure honor King Jesus, who honors us with the gifts of love and grace?

Opening Hymn\* - *"This Is the Day"* UMH 657 (2x)

Angela Gricar

### **Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship**

**Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-**

Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

L: Bring your gifts and bring your love to honor the King of love.

**P: Bring your worship and bring your praise to pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.**

**Opening Prayer**

Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise, grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives. As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship, fill our hearts with Christmas joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister Ainise Isama'u

### **The Word of God for the people of God**

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12

Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup>*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,*

*because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup>They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

L: The Word of God for all people

**P: Thanks be to God**

Special Music

Zion Une

Sermon: ~ "The First Advent in Palestine: Unexpected Hope"

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

### **We Respond to God's grace**

Celebration of Holy Communion

Clergy Team

Offering Our Gifts ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Doxology\* *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Angela Gricar

**\*Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.

### **Going Forth in God's Holy Name**

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Closing Hymn\* ~ *"Let There Be Peace on Earth (v.1)*

Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings \* -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace\* - Postlude