Midweek Worship Service
January 4, 2023 . 12:00 pm

Opening Voluntary

The Call to Worship

Minister: Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation.

People: Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe.

Minister: Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today.

People: Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.
**HYMN 254**

*We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,

Born a King on Beth-lehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever,

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising,

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing,

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia,

westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

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1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,
2. Born a King on Beth-lehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever,
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising,
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing,
5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia,

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Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,

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John H. Hopkins, 1857
PRAYER OF CONFESSION *
Lord of living light, we hear the story of the Magi and tie it together with our warm Christmas celebration. It feels comfortable to us. Break those bonds of comfort and help us to realize the risk of witness and discipleship for those who follow your light. Shine brightly in us and through us. Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you. Give us vision of what you would have us be and do in the light of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Hear the good news. The light of the world has come to you. You are loved by God and called to God’s service. Now you can walk and work in the light. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON *
Matthew 2:1-12
† following the reading
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON
Searching for Jesus

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
We Three Kings
Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star, and this the quest of the travelers three: where the new-born King of the Jews may be. Full royal gifts they bear for the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way, and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary’s child in her lap they see. Their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are traveling – travel with them! The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King.

Will Green, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they said it was a shame; they hard to dance with the devil on your back; they came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they buried my body and they thought I’d gone, but I am the life that’ll never, never die; I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me;

came to me and the dance went on. left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, where I am the dance and I still go on. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

ever you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Continued on next page)
Blessing *

The light of Jesus is here in our midst! Search, and you will find. May God lead you, wherever you may be, with the strength of God the Father, the love of Christ the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. And may the Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you. Amen.

Closing Voluntary

Preaching: Rev. Josh Miles, Associate Minister
Music: Oliver Brett, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

For information on upcoming worship services please visit www.prumc.org.