

*Epiphany of Our Lord
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
January 8, 2023*

Rev. Karen Parsh 814.881.3266 pastorparsh@gmail.com

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The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

CONFESSIO and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess
our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be
messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our
joy, our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our
neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

**Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life
in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ 8:30a ELW 303 *Brightest and Best of the Stars vs. 1,3,5*

10:30a ELW 292 *Love Has Come*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN of PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



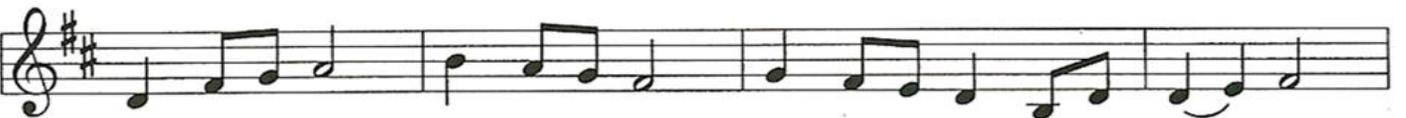
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



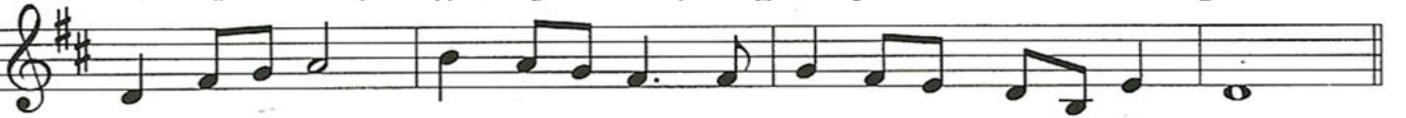
☐ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, ai - migh-t-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7,10-14 Sung Responsively Tone 11



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and ¹ moon endure,
from one generation ¹ to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon ¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa- ¹ ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹ be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the ¹ isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba ¹ offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow ¹ down before him,
and all the nations ¹ do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out ¹ in distress,
the oppressed, and those who ¹ have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the low- ¹ ly and poor,
and preserves the lives ¹ of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- ¹ deems their lives,
and precious is their blood ¹ in his sight.**

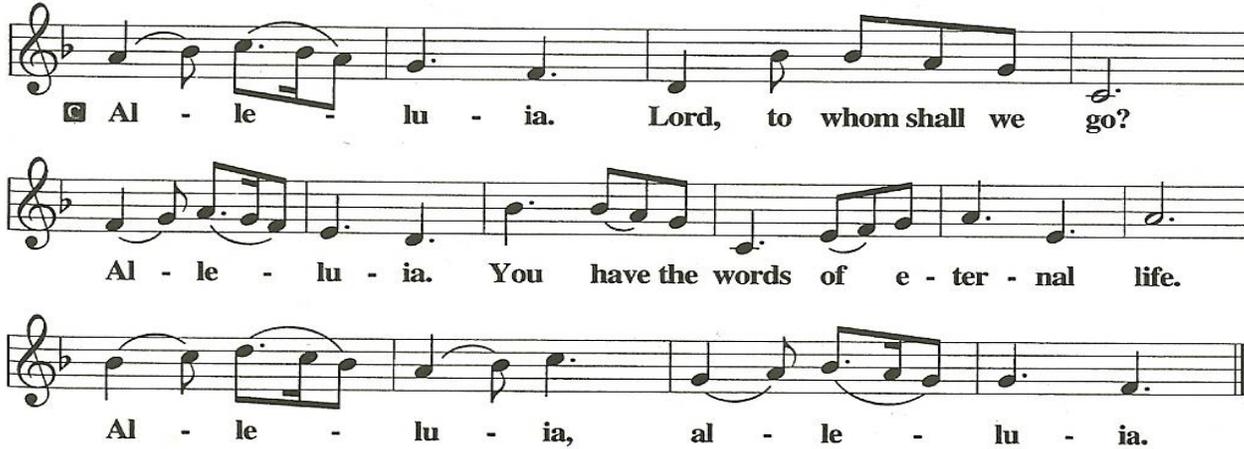
SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 2. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW 300 *The First Noel vs. 1, 3, 5*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you, redeeming God. Receive our thanks for their witness and faith, and guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis, especially: Elaine, Don & Skip, Ed T. Dave P, Judy, Karri, Sandy, Trudy & Christian, Jo, Sally & Matt, Sharron, Esther, John, Emily, Dick & Diana, Don & June, Norma, the Gresh Family, Nicole, Sam & Dorothy, Judi, Karen, Ruth, Don F, Carrie, Evelyn, Joyce, Jack & Marjorie, Roger & Irene. God of Grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated

OFFERING HYMN ~ WOV 646 *We Three Kings*

PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion
we may know the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

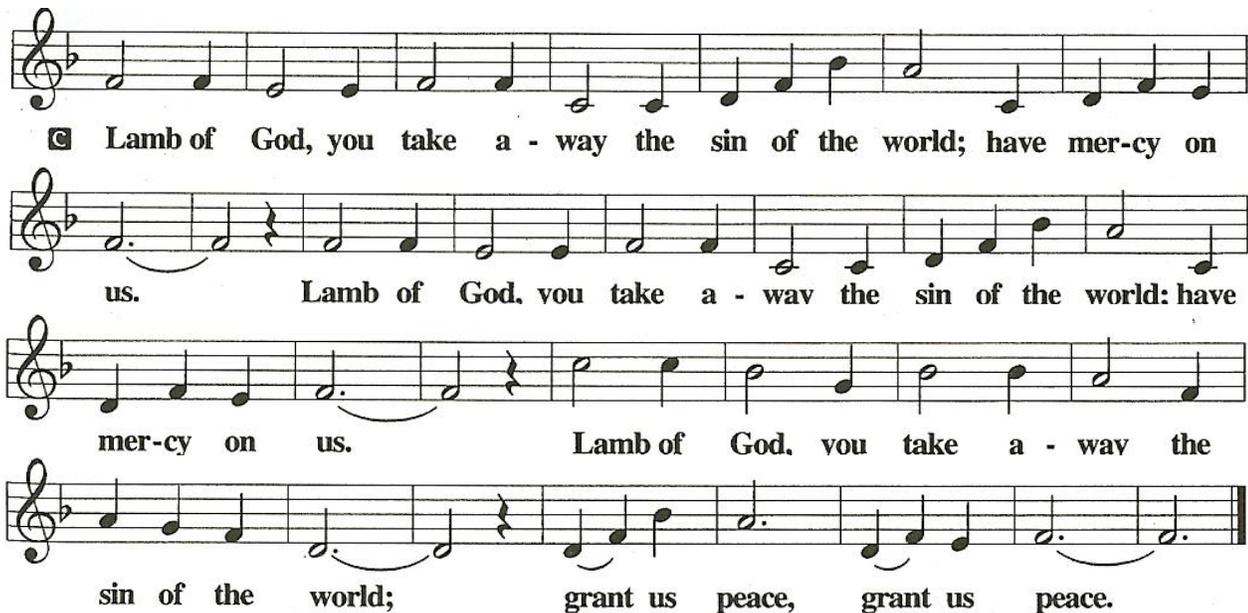
Please be seated

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB of GOD



□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ WOV 638 *Holy Child within the Manger*
I Wonder if He Knew pg. 14

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG ~ELW 302 *As with Gladness v.1,4,5*

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE - In a Dream

When God speaks to you in a dream, you listen. Talk to Jacob, Joseph, or Daniel about this. Just a quick chapter ago in Matthew's gospel, Joseph was told in a dream to stick by Mary and to name their child "Jesus," meaning "savior." Shortly after today's account of the magi, Joseph will be guided in a dream to take refuge in Egypt, and again will be directed to a safe and secure place to call home at Nazareth in Galilee.

The magi also took to their travels via a vision. They observed a star and took it on faith that they should follow. The star led them to both promise and danger, and to a rather dubious audience with the sitting king. Despite the challenges, the magi continued, with courage and trust, to follow their vision to its end, to the place where Jesus was. It was in another dream that these travelers were guided to a better route home. This was both a detour out of harm's way, in a real sense, and also a symbolic way of walking the world differently after having encountered Christ.

For and about what do you dream—not just your dreams in sleep, but your waking dreams and visions as well? When your heart beats in time with God's hopes and dreams for the world, what will it take for you to follow that vision? What risks will you take? What challenges will you be called to confront? How will you be changed when you encounter God in the flesh, God among us?

By stars, visions, and faith itself, we are always being led by God toward hope and life, and we are being drawn to new pathways of forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We dream. And then we follow.

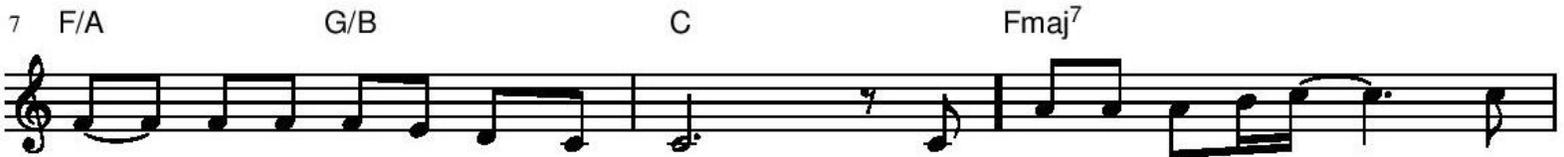
COMMUNION HYMN ~ I Wonder If He Knew



1. In the si - lence _ of that ho - ly night, _ came the sound of _ an - gels
 2. In the shad - ows _ of the sta - ble light, _ came this ti - ny _ flame's be -
 3. From the mo - ment _ of that low - ly birth, _ all the world is _ some-how



sing - ing. In the qui - et _ of a man - ger lay _ the
 - gin - ning. From the dark - ness _ of that hum - ble place, _ came
 dif - frent. Out of Christ - mas, _ and this time of love, _ the



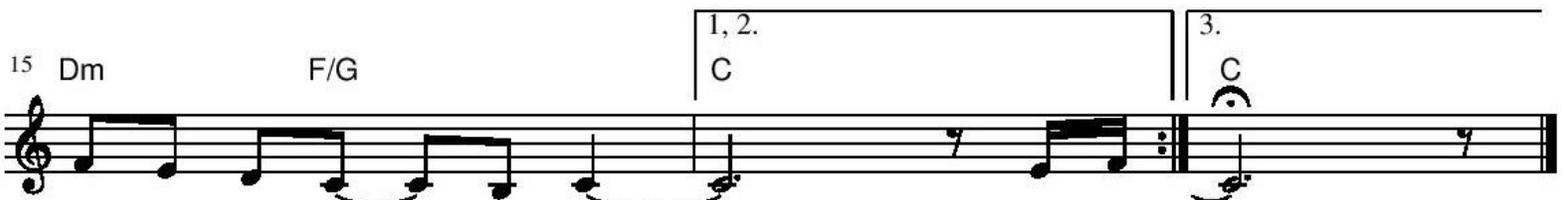
Sav - ior of an un - sus - pect - ing world. I won - der if He knew _ the
 light _ to il - lu - mine ev - 'ry heart. I
 gift _ of new life is giv'n through Him. I



cross was a - head, _ what He had to do? _ His blood would be shed. _ I



won - der if _ He knew _ the pain He would suf - fer _ for



peo - ple like me _ and you? _
 2. In the
 3. From the

PARISH NOTES ~ January 8, 2023

*Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,
In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, from Carol Wunch*

Bible classes resume this morning @ 9:30a

Confirmation Class this morning at **10:15a.**
Next Sunday, **January 11 @ St. Paul's, 10:15a**

Please pray for: Elaine Don & Skip Kleckner, Ed Tropper, Dave Parsh, Judy Johnston, Karri Pacileo, Donna Klakamp, Sandy Pacileo, Trudy & Christian Mueller, Jo Critchfield, Sally & Matt Zill, Sharron Sontheimer, Esther Klakamp, John Litzel, Don & June Morey, Diana & Dick Stoker, Emily Stoker, Roger & Irene Owens, Norma Squire, the Gresh family, Nicole Woomer, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Karen Shick, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Judi Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

Thank You

Dear Abiding Hope Friends:

Thank you for the generous Amazon gift card. It was not necessary but much appreciated. Also, thank you for your wonderful support of our choir and musicians. We are always welcome to new singers, so please resolve to come join us in 2023!

Blessings, Sheryl Williams, Music Coordinator

Dearest Abiding Hope Family:

Thank you for the lovely Christmas card and gift of money. Your kindness and warmth mean ever so much to me and your generosity gratefully appreciated.

Heartfelt wishes for a healthy, blessed 2023. Sincerely, Denise - the office lady.

Wednesday January 11: The new LUNCH & LISTEN SPEAKER SERIES begins with Abiding Hope's Ed Whitbred. Ed will have an entertaining talk about the history of "Lower Parade Street - Erie's Ellis Island" Bring your Brown Bag Lunch @ 12:00n, speaker 12:30p-1:30p. You're welcome to arrive at 12:30p for just the speaker. Beverages/dessert provided.

Wednesday, January 18: The Prayer Warrior Group, led by Jerry Vogt and Pastor Karen, will meet at **1:00pm in the sanctuary**. Consider to join in to pray for our nation and the world in crisis, those affected by illness or are grieving the loss of someone, plus other concerns. Questions?, contact Jerry @ 814.504.3566 or Pr. Karen.

Ladies Night Out: To start out the new year, the group will meet on **Thurs, Jan 19 @ 530p, Syd's Place, West Lake Rd (just past Peninsula Dr.)** Join in for a fun night of good food, conversation and definitely LAUGHS. Please RSVP by Monday, Jan 16 to Carolyn Hayes at 814-464-3625 or Nancy Cuning at 814-833-3109 to RSVP and to let us know if you need a ride. Drivers and riders will meet at AH at 5:00. All ladies are welcome.

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00p: Ability to READ MUSIC not NECESSARY!
Please join us!

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Offering two weekly Holy Communion services @ 8:30a & 10:30a. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then post to the AHLC web page. Please check parish notes or our web site for any changes to times for worship or bible study. Check newsletter, parish notes, weekly reminder email.

KAFP Project Dignity: Items for Jan.-deodorant. There is a basket in the “cry room”.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to donate flowers for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-\$20.00 each. Place the completed form and payment in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9:30a-3:30p, Wed 9:30a-12:30p. If the office is not staffed, leave a message, your call will be returned. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266. Pastor is in the office on Tuesdays at 10:00a or by appointment.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

December Income: \$ 9,967.50 Year to Date Income: \$111,275.11
 December Expenses: \$12,213.73 Year to Date Expenses: \$128,022.63
 December Difference:\$-2,246.23 Year to date Difference: \$ -16,747.52
 Year to Date Budget: \$124,449

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ JANUARY 8, 2023

Epiphany	8:30AM	10:30AM
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Marcia Santabene	Ed Whitbred
Comm Assist/cups	Lois Kuhns	Jeanne Tropper
Comm. Assist/wine	Damion Santabene	Nancy Cunning
Communion tray	Analee Cree	Michele Rion
Presenter	Mary Randall	Carol Whitbred
Presenter	Barb Paris	Kaylee Miller
Usher	Mike Paris	Andy Saska
Usher	Lon Jenkins	volunteer
Counters	Carol Korn/ Andy Saska	