

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Emily Lund

Welcome & News of the Church

Moment for Mission

We Believe, Even When

Call to Worship

One: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!
Darkness has been banished!
God's light of hope floods the earth.
God's light comes to us all.
Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.
Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.
Let us worship God!

Hymn

Gather Us In

*Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken, gather us in - the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty, gather us in - the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in - all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession

One: The light of a star guided the travelers to the feet of Jesus where they offered their most precious gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You have given us more than a star, O God, to guide us; you have revealed your glory and your love in the person of Jesus – the Light of the world. As we offer our thanks for such wondrous gifts to us, we hear your call to be bearers of his light and love into the areas of people's lives darkened by pain and fear, poverty and oppression, sorrow and hopelessness. Enable the power and radiance of Christ to flow through us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and Shine. Follow the star. Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem . . . and be transformed from darkness into light. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory be to God!

Children's Message

Anthem *All is Well* Michael W. Smith
Leslie Dunkin and Tonya Cory

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon *Live, Love, Laugh* Dr. Charles Bagwell
includes Scripture from Psalms 121 and John 10:10

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *We Three Kings* arr. Patti Drennan

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn *We Three Kings*

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Benediction

Postlude *Good Christians Friends, Rejoice* arr. Emily Lund