

# Order of Worship

December 31, 2023 10:00 AM

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Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Prelude

### Love Divine

August Freyer

Annelisa Crabtree, organ

## Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

## Greeting

Leader: Long ago, Wise Ones followed a beckoning star;

**People: the light of hope pierced the darkness of the world.**

Leader: Today we share in the joy of the Magi--

**People: God's glory shines around us. Christ the Savior is born!**

## Hymn

### We Three Kings of Orient Are

UMH 254

Sing refrain only after stanzas 1 and 5

## Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, Light of the world,  
we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin.  
You deliver those who are poor and helpless,

**People: but we have ignored their cry.**

Leader: You take pity on those who are weak and destitute,

**People: but our hearts are hard in the face of their need.**

Leader: You heal the wounded and save the oppressed,

**People: but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to be people of the light,  
shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy  
into all the dark places of our lives and world.

**People: Unlock the mystery and glory**

**of the babe born in Bethlehem.**

**Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose  
guided by your star.**

**Let the light break into our lives and our world,  
transforming our hearts and minds.**

## Words of Assurance

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## Carol Sing

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**  
**What Child Is This?**

UMH 220

UMH 219

## Children's Message

### Scripture

**Matthew 2:1-12**

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Stargazing**

Rev. Wines

## Carol Sing

**The First Noel**  
**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

UMH 245

UMH 251

## Prayer of the People

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

## Offering

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.  
You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website  
and click "Make your online offering."*

## Sending Forth

## Hymn

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

UMH 240

## Benediction

Rev. Wines

## Postlude

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!**

William Held

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*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance adapted from material by Joanne Carlson Brown (2021 Abingdon Worship Annual) and additional material reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.  
Prayer of the People adapted from a prayer by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, <https://worshipwords.co.uk/>*