

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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Epiphany Sunday



Domingo de Epifania

January 2, 2022

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2nd, 2022 – 10:00am
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday: Year C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING:

Erica Kessler

Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring
By J.S. Bach arr. by Edwin McLean

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (unison):

God of light and love, shine upon our lives, as we welcome the mystery of your love. Guide us toward your true gift, for our hearts long to encounter with the holy. Quiet our expectations, that we might be surprised by the unexpected. Open our eyes, that we might find you in unanticipated places. Shine your light upon us, that we might see you clearly, and recognize your face in all people.

AMEN.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Arise, shine! Your light has come!

Glory to God in the highest.

Darkness covers the earth,

but God's glory shines brightly.

Lift up your eyes. Look around.

The light of God's love shines radiantly.

Arise, shine! Your light has come!

Our hearts thrill and rejoice!

*OPENING HYMN:

Star Child

TFWS 2095 (vss.1,2,3,5)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

The presents have been opened. The cookies have been eaten. The celebrations have left us exhausted. Yet your Spirit comes again, guiding us toward true joy. In all of our busy celebrations, remind us that you desire righteousness and justice for a world in need of generous hearts. May the light of Jesus Christ, the world's true light, live among us and turn our lives from oppressive power toward liberation and hope.

AMEN.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Like rain that falls upon the grass, like showers that water the earth, may righteousness and peace abound in our lives and in our world.

HYMN OF WORSHIP:

We Would See Jesus

UMH 256 (vss. 1,2,5)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

He Touched Me
By Bill Gaither

***DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

Giver of every gift, source of all goodness and light, we open the treasure chests of our hearts before you. We offer you gifts of gold, to care for those in need. We offer you gifts of love, to serve a suspicious world. Bless our gifts and our lives, and use them to love and heal the world.

AMEN.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

(As the children come to the altar, please sing stanza 1 of Hymn 191, "Jesus Loves Me")

***GOSPEL LESSON:**

MATTHEW 2:1 – 12

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse. . .

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ!

SERMON:

“Defusing Unexploded Bombs”
Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our joyful thanks and praise.

We thank you, creating God for the great light of your love. When you called forth creation, you said, “Let there be light” and you saw that it was good. You divided the light from darkness and created the sun, moon, and stars to light the sky. It was good, as all your creation was good.

When your people suffered in bondage and oppression, you led them out of slavery. You lit the way to freedom with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. You gave them your commandments to light their way, as they strove to become a community of justice and righteousness.

When your people turned from your light, you were still faithful, loving them always. You sent prophets to call them back to the world’s true light. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we sing your praises.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You sent Jesus to us, the light of the world. He promised that those who followed him would never walk in darkness, but would have the light of life. The light of his life shone on all people, revealing the truth of your love. He fed the hungry, cured the sick, ate with sinners, and proclaimed your truth.

Before he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Taking the bread, he gave thanks to you and broke it. He gave it to his friends, saying, “Take and eat. I am with you now and forever. Let this meal feed you. Remember me as you eat.” Then he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his followers, saying, “This is the cup of the new covenant, given for the forgiveness of sins. It is a gift for you and for all people. It is my love offered for you. Drink of this and remember me.”

And so, as we remember Jesus, light of the world, teacher, healer, guide, and friend; we offer ourselves into Christ’s service, that we too might radiate God’s light, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ, light of the world, our hope for all creation. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may become the body of Christ, as we serve creation and reflect the light of your love. Make us one with Jesus, and one with each other, as we walk in the light, singing your praises. Through Jesus Christ, light of the world, and through the Holy Spirit, radiance divine, all praise is yours, eternal God, now and forever, world without end.

AMEN.

Announcements

January 2, 2022

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: resuming January 5th, 2022.

Wednesdays

1st Bible Study: on the Book of Genesis

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12 pm. On ZOOM.

2nd Bible Study:

- Bible Study with Pastor Uziel at the church building, starting at 5pm.

AD COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, January 6th, 2022. On ZOOM at 7pm.

NEW WEBSITE DOMAIN: We are transitioning to a new Website Domain next year. Beginning May 3rd, 2022, our church's website address will change from

centennialumcrockford.org

to

centennialumcrockford.com

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Uziel.

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: Mae Foster, Henrietta Day, Art Huenkemeier, Lee Magnuson.

At Home: Micaela Serrano, Cleo English, Carol Waxler.

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Maynard Wibom, Rev. Bettye Mixon, Tara & Ismael Arencibia, Jerald Grady, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Pat Nelson, Ellen Dean, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Noreen Slade, Wayne Russ, Erica Kessler.

BIRTHDAYS

		1/3	Edward Hanebuth
1/2	Karen Garza	1/5	Jorge Gomez
1/2	Deborah Wescott		

Joys and Concerns

A memorial for Tim Holley (Connie Brown's brother) who passed away from pancreatic cancer will be held at Centennial UM Church on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 3pm.

Sharon Sodergren became a great grandma for the 22nd time on Dec 22. Her granddaughter Chelsea and Vincent Sheehan had a baby boy. He is named Vincent also and is the 5th Vincent in their family. He was 7lbs 4 oz and 19 and ½ inches long. Congratulations to the family.

Jennifer Berry (Carol's Risenhoover's daughter) is recovering from covid-19 and is feeling much better. Such good news.

Todd Kellerman (Janie Kellerman's son) and his two children are suffering from covid-19. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

Ishmael Arcenibia's niece had a baby boy that weighed 1 lb 1 oz. Please pray for him and his family.

Leah Sanders (Pam Sander's daughter) friend's grandma had a home invasion on Christmas day. No one was injured. What a blessing.

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Uziel if you need any assistance, please contact him at 224.723.7003.

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