

**January 6, 2013
Epiphany of the Lord
10:45 a.m.**

Please enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship in silence.

*Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
(Isaiah 60:1)*

When they had heard the king, they sent 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

(Mathew 2:9-11)

In 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(Ephesians 3:5-6)

GATHERING

Caroling

167 *The First Noel*

173 *Good Christians All, Rejoice*

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Isaiah 60, 2 Corinthians 4)

Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts,

To give us the light of knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

*Hymn 191

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET

Invocation

WORD AND SACRAMENT

The Reading of God's Word

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6 (p.602)

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 (p.783)

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Choral Anthem

Waiting for the Star

Ruth Elaine Schram

Confession of Sin and Words of Assurance

Common Prayer

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace
*Passing the Peace of Christ

*Hymn 193 *I Think of That Star of Long Ago* BETHLEHEMS STJARNA

Proclamation *New Light For Everyone!* Ephesians 3:1-12

Celebration at the Table of Christ

We give you thanks, O God,
for making your love evident
since the very beginning of time
when you spoke the word
which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light.
The wonder of the Christ light is that the whole world is welcome
to come, with faith, and to receive your grace.
Through your love for the world the Word
became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.
The angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens
and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and
with all people to praise your holy name:

Holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are surely full of your glory.

The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it. Blessed is he who was born that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. remember me each time you do this." After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.'

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayers of the Church

RESPONSE

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

To Bethlehem

Bob Burroughs

*Response (196 verse 4)

***To God the Father, heavenly Light,
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Ghost we raise
An endless song of thankful praise! Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH

*Hymn 195 *Shine, Jesus, Shine* SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*Charge

*Benediction

*Tolling

*Postlude

Following the Postlude and during the coffee hour, a Stephen Minister will be available near the stained glass windows for anyone interested in individual prayer.

**Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome! We pray that you will experience anew the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ as we worship together.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ours is an open table. All who love and follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to share the bread and cup. At the conclusion of the service ushers will be at the exit doors to receive the monthly offering for the Community Mission Fund.

Our thanks to Joseph and Rachel Curran, sanctuary greeters, Bob Braun, Sam Paravonian, Sam Rivi, Tom Rivi, Rick Schultz, ushers; Paul Christmas, Scripture Reader; Ron and Deb Peterson and Sandy and Claire Macfarland, coffee hosts; and Nancy Magill (piano).

WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH
January 6, 2013

TODAY IN OUR CHURCH

If you are visiting today, welcome! Please join us in the narthex immediately following worship for coffee and conversation.

- 10:45 a.m. Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supper at the Hawkinson home
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. High League

TUESDAY—JANUARY 8

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study—Lesson 12: Political and Family Crises: Genesis 20 & 21
- 9:45 a.m. Playgroup. All are welcome. Contact: Kira Johnson, kiraj23@att.net
- 6:45 p.m. Christian Formation Board meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Outreach Committee meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Resource Committee meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Stitch and Study at the home of Marilyn Nelson
- 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Mens Basketball

WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 9

- 10:00 a.m. Staff meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner: Split Pea Soup. All are welcome. Cost: \$3.50/adult; \$2.50/child or \$10/family. Cleanup: Senior High Students.
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Singing, Skits and Scripture in the Upper Room. All are welcome.
- 6:45 p.m. Programs for all ages, ending at 7:45 p.m. Explorers (ages 2-3); Voyagers (ages 4-Kindergarten); Pathfinders (grades 1-2); Trailblazers (grades 3-5); Junior High
- 6:45 p.m. Book/Film Group in the Prayer Room
- 6:45 p.m. The Story in Room 203, discussing Chapter 11
- 6:45 p.m. Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY—JANUARY 10

- 8:30 a.m. Leisure Class Breakfast at The Bistro (Covenant Village, Northbrook). All are welcome. Contact: Sam Paravonian (847 272-8644)
- 12:30 p.m. Quilters, Knitters, Etc. meet at the home of Mary Koules. Bring your own sandwich.

FRIDAY—JANUARY 11

6:30-9 p.m. The Marriage Course (first of seven nights). Candlelight dinner at a table for two...Listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, played on DVD and facilitated by a couple...No group sharing...Time for just the two of you...Free child care. For more information/registration, visit www.winnetkacovenant.org or call 847 446-4300. \$25 per couple for the entire course, includes dinner, child care and materials. Registration closes today. Anyone is welcome. evening High League—Winnetka Covenant Church and North Park Covenant Church coming together for a good night! More details to come.

SATURDAY—JANUARY 12

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship

SUNDAY—JANUARY 13

8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. For children, *Rotation Sunday School: The Good Samaritan*. For adults, *The Story*, in Room 203, and *The Wisdom of the Megilloth: Song of Songs, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Esther* led by Paul Koptak in the Upper Room.

10:45 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. High League

ADVANCE CALENDAR

January 18-20. Junior High Deep Freeze Retreat at Covenant Harbor

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 p.m. WCC Annual meeting

February 22-24. Trailblazer Retreat. Registrations are due January 16.

NOTICES

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Marilyn Drotts, who died on Thursday, December 27 in Massachusetts. A memorial service at Winnetka Covenant Church will be held at a future date.

Larger print copies of the morning hymns are available on the table in the back of the church near the sound booth. Children's bulletins are also available in the narthex. Please help yourself as needed.

The Worship Committee is excited about displaying the **Stations of the Cross** once again this Lenten season. We will be working again with artists and authors to produce new works of religious art and written reflections. If you are interested in creating art, writing a reflection, or participating in meditative music, please contact Kurt Peterson at peterpersonkurtw@gmail.com or 312.218-5545 as soon as possible.

There are opportunities to **volunteer for Family Promise** at our church this week, January 6-13. You may sign up in the narthex today.

Offering envelopes for use in 2013 are available to pick up in the narthex after the worship service.

The Story: A journey together into the story of God's love, continues Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. *The Story* is scripture condensed into 31 accessible chapters, allowing the stories, poems and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Materials will be provided. All are welcome.

Do you like to cook? Consider making one of our Wednesday night dinners in the coming months. 14 weeks are currently unspoken for from January through May. Yes, it's for a large group, but there is plenty of help with determining quantities, shopping, preparation and clean-up. It's a great way to use your gifts to serve the church! Contact Mary Beth Kovacic: 847-251-8651, mkovacic@northpark.edu.

Stephen Ministry of Winnetka Covenant Church. "When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand." *Henri Nouwen* Please contact one of our pastors or a Stephen Ministry leader if you would like more information.

Texts for next week: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Straight talk about Financial Stewardship - Thank you for your financial gifts to WCC in 2012. At this point, we have covered 95% of our planned 2012 budget with your generous contributions. In real dollars, this means we are about \$60K short of our 2012 budgeted plan. Fortunately, our actual 2012 expenses will be less than our planned budget. However, we still expect to be short of covering our actual expenses in 2012.

It is never too late to help. Please do not overlook your commitment to support our church financially and help us start strong in 2013. Your generous contribution in January can help us make up our 2012 deficit. It is up to your generous giving, talents, special gifts and faith that helps us maintain our programs, missions, staff and church all year.

The 2013 pledges are still being collected. We still have many who have pledged in the past, but have not submitted a pledge for 2013. Please submit your pledge online or send to the church office TODAY.

Thank you for your financial attention to the needs of our church and your ongoing commitment to our mission.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Those in need

Sue Abram

Elsie Anderson

Lee Borre

John Breidenbach

Richard Carlson (nephew of Jean Larsen)

Kristen Dahl (daughter of Eleanor and Peter Milbratz)

Ray Dahlberg (brother of Marj Hanson)

Carolyn Donnan (sister of Carl Balsam)

Family of Marilyn Drotts (former member)

JoAnna Haak (daughter of Cleo Constantin)

Norton Hoffburg (friend of Maria Moreno)

Joanna (friend of Alisa Siebrasse)

Connie Jackson (sister of Marti Crow)

Doug Johnson (uncle of Aimee Balsam and Dane Johnson)

Frank Kassen

Aaron Klaassen (nephew of Nancy Magill)

Marlene Larson (friend of Mary Nilsen)

David Lopata (friend of Dave and Maria Moreno)

Paul Nilsen

Dwight Peterson (brother of Bonnie Hawkinson and Kurt Peterson)

Family of Joseph Randazzo (grandfather of Joey Randazzo)

Jonathan Schwartz (brother of Mike Schwartz)

Ruth Seaver (sister of Judy Ebright)

Susan Magill Smith (sister of Hugh Magill)
Doris Storm
Roger Vanoer
Rick Voit
Kathleen Hanson Zavatsky (sister of Cindy Buettgen, John Hanson and
Pamela Hanson)
Stephen Ministers and those for whom they care
Our nation and leaders

Those serving in the military:

Chris Haak (grandson of Cleo Constantin)
Ryan Hengell (nephew of Phil and Barbara Kazanjian)
Chris Hillman (friend of Bill & Sue Kelly)
Bill Kelly
Peter Sudhoff

Those we support who are serving on the mission field:

Kara Bladel (Alaska)
Christine Buettgen (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Don and Lillian Dwight (Taiwan)
Brittany Girle (Juarez, Mexico)
Pamela Hanson (Honduras, on home assignment)
Julio and Katie Isaza (Colombia)
Peter and Anna Kim (China)
Jamie and Erica Rose (Alaska)
Gary and Mary Lou Sander (Colombia)
James and Rachel Ventress (Alaska)

WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH
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Our mission is to be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel, worshiping together in love, nurturing people in the faith, serving others as Christian disciples, and building a world of justice and hope in the name of Christ.

At Winnetka Covenant Church:

We hold grace as our highest value.

We practice honest, open, direct communication.

We speak the truth in love and listen in love.

*We believe the best about each other, valuing others above ourselves, as Christ does.
We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that mistakes are part of the growth process.*