

Dare to imagine God's dance! - Imagine a dance that includes all peoples and nations coming together, praising God for Jesus. Just imagine: God chooses and lavishes grace on us, a dancer who is both intimate and inclusive, living among us, revealing God's glory in the Word made flesh.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come and join in a holy dance—a dance God has been imagining since the beginning.

People: We come, weeping.

Leader: Join in God's comforting dance.

People: We come with nothing.

Leader: Join in God's dance of abundance.

People: We come, feeling disconnected.

Leader: Join in God's intimate dance.

People: We come, although we do not know how to dance.

Leader: Will we dare to learn the moves? Do we dare step onto the dance floor?

People: We will join in God's daring dance.

Prayer

Candle Litany

Leader: We light the Christ candle to honor Jesus and listen as all creation joins in praise.

People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Songs

Confession

Let us confess God's greatness with an attitude of childlike, awestruck wonder.

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
how I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
how I wonder what you are.

guide us to thy perfect light.

Prayer - God of the vast heavens, expansive oceans, majestic mountains, and rolling prairies, forgive us for our need to conquer and control. Cause us to look up, reach out, and follow . . . For you, O God of infinite imagination, will lead us.

Assurance

From all the fullness of God,

the world has received grace upon grace.
The young rejoice in the dance.
The old shall be merry.
Surely, the true Light has come into the world. Amen.

Song

Children's time

Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-18

Sermon Most Valued Gifts

Songs

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times, *"Lord, in your mercy"* respond with *"hear our prayer."*

Offering Song

Announcements

Intercultural Development Inventory summary session with Carlos, **February 12**. You may designate funds toward your IDI and the honorarium for Carlos for the introduction and summary to WS.

Cal will have a **month of Sabbatical and planning** starting on January 4, 2022.

Sending

Move your feet to the rhythm of the seasons,
let your praises be seen in your movement.
Use your imagination,
join in God's daring dance,
the dance that began with the light.

Isaiah 60:1-6 New International Version

The Glory of Zion

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-18

New International Version

The Magi Visit the Messiah

² 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.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."