

Worship for January 2, 2022

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP
HYMN 59

Psalm 105
The Steadfast Love of the Lord

Annie Reynolds

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all creation, each new year, and even each new day, reminds us of new life and new chances. But we are stuck in the day or the year that is over. We carry guilt about things we cannot forget; we hold grudges; we refuse to apologize for misdeeds; and we carry our sins with us, even though you want us to confess our sins and leave them behind. Forgive us, Lord. Help us forgive others and ourselves. Help us to seek reconciliation and to correct past wrongs where we can. Help us to see and embrace the new day and year that is before us. We ask all this in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

HYMN 401

Here In This Place

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

Annie Reynolds

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

The Great Escape

Rev. Scott Lawson

ANTHEM

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, arr. Mark Hayes

Michael Parker, piano

PRAYING THE EXAMEN

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.
Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org/serve/giving/

HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

BENEDICTION