



January 5, 2025
Epiphany Sunday

Ministers

Pastor
Director of Faith Formation Ministries
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Director of Preschool
Maintenance Superintendent
Administrator/Recording Treasurer

All the People of Covenant

Rev. Rachel H. Vogado
Jewel Aagaard
Richard Rudolph
Ronn Lowe
Anne Craig
Mark Overacker
Gail Schuler

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Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

Prelude "How Bright Appears the Morning Star"
James Woodman

Welcome and Announcements

*During our morning announcements,
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

Joys and Concerns of the Covenant Family

Introit "March of the Wise Men"
arr. Philip Keveren

*Call to Worship (from Isaiah 60)

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**All: See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you,**

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

**All: Lift up your eyes and look about you:
all assemble and come to you.
Come, let us worship the Lord!**

***Hymn of Praise, #143** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal
your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the
brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for
justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may
show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response, Hymn #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
Children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Time with Our Children Jewel Aagaard
Director of Faith Formation

*Passing of the Peace (Greet one another, "Peace be with you.")

*Children ages 3 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship
and will return during the last hymn.*

Teaching

Prayer for Illumination Kathy Slack

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible, NT pp. 1-2)

Epistle Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 (Pew Bible, NT p. 170)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon "Something New" Laura Jane Ramsburg
Missional Commissioned Pastor

Anthem "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"
arr. Tom Fettke

Nurturing

Celebration of Holy Communion

*Communion Hymn, #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Meditations

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

Wilbur Held

Communion Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 35)

Celebration of Giving+

Offertory "He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising"
Paul Manz

Reaching

*Hymn #744 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

***Charge and Benediction**

Trinity Chimes

Our Trinity Chimes played before the postlude provide the opportunity to sit and enjoy the end of our service with music, or to exit quietly as our Livestream continues for this part of worship.

Postlude "Joy to the World"
Handel/Fox

Music Notes from Ronn Lowe: One of my favorite composers for organ was Wilbur Held. I share some of his music today as his hymn tunes are of a simple nature, but quite beautiful: *Wilbur Held, composer, teacher, and a servant "gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29), died on March 24, 2015, in Claremont, California, a few months shy of his 101st birthday. A deeply thoughtful and meticulous musician, Held crafted elegant preludes, postludes, and hymn settings that remain central to the repertoire of church organists around the globe. Substantial yet accessible, his music reveals the truths of scripture in the shape of a line, the content of a progression, the evolution of an idea across a work, and in the attitude of humility they embody. His musical language reaches back through the centuries and brings those influences to bear in a style that is distinctively of our time. An admirer recently noted, "Wilbur Held makes organists of even moderate ability sound good. And he also turns even garden-variety hymn tunes into great musical settings."*

Welcome! We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at covenantroanoke.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

Greetings, Parents! Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary, with a changing table and rocking chairs.

Children's bulletins and activity bags are available on the table in Heritage Hall. **We offer Children's Worship** during the second half of the service for children ages 4 to 11.

We are pleased to welcome Laura Jane Ramsburg to the pulpit this morning. Rev. Rachel Vogado is away serving as the co-director for the Montreat College Conference.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Scott and Lee Ann Hodge and family on the passing of Scott's beloved mother, Mary Scott Hodge, on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. A service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 11:00 AM at Oakey's South Chapel. Visitation will be held at Oakey's prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Elder of the Month: Gail Trussell

Deacon of the Month: Kevin Aagaard

Assistant Deacon of the Month: Scott Ramsburg



In Our Prayers ...

Congregation: Audrey Bashlor, Christine Beck, Mary Jane Fisher, Dick Frahm, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Jinx Weary, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families

Family & Friends: Greg Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Andrew Craig, Jackie Rose, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Jim Haugen, Jo Jones, Pauline Mudrick, Cordell Parvin, Kathy Roberts, Sheila Simmons, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Joe Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India, Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

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