

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WORD AND SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS DAY
JANUARY 5, 2014



Journey of the Magi, by James Tissot
circa 1894
Oil on canvas

James-Joseph-Jacques Tissot (1836—1902) was a French painter, engraver, and enameler noted for his portraits of late Victorian society. After receiving a religious education, Tissot went to Paris at age 19 to study art. Turning from his rather anguished early works to modern genre paintings and stylish portraits, he quickly became successful in the Paris art world. He fought in the Franco-German War (1870–71), later associating himself with the Paris Commune; in its aftermath he fled to London (1871). There he began to rebuild his career, establishing friendships with other well-known artists such as Degas, Manet, Monet, and Whistler.

In 1885, after a mystical experience, he determined to illustrate a life of Christ. He took a number of trips to the Holy Land and produced some 350 watercolours of New Testament subjects, which were published in two volumes. *Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica online*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CONSOLATION NO. 4 IN D-FLAT MAJOR

FRANZ LISZT

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: **The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

Leader: God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

People: **We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.**

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out to the ends of the earth that all might be gathered in. In your triune name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 149

ALL HAIL TO GOD'S ANOINTED (TUNE FOUND AT NUMBER 197)

ELLACOMBE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all through Jesus Christ, who gave himself to redeem us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

The Twelfth Night is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th). Twelfth Night often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations. Many European celebrations of Twelfth Night included a King's Cake, remembering the visit of the Three Magi, and ale or wine (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some cultures, the King's Cake was part of the celebration of the day of Epiphany.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. You have searched for us, and yet we hide from you. You have lavished us with blessing, and yet we treasure earthly things. Forgive us, loving God. Shine on us with grace and glory and reveal to us your promise: good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ's grace we have become children of God and heirs to the hope of eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*JOYFUL RESPONSE HYMN 137

HE CAME DOWN

HE CAME DOWN

WE PROCLAIM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLOIST

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

DANIEL MORTIMER, SOLOIST

MARK HAYES

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

SERMON

"THE WISE MEN"

REV. DR. ANNE EPLING

WE RESPOND

*HYMN 151

WE THREE KINGS

KINGS OF ORIENT

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

The text of today's solo comes from the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3.

This book, along with the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, and Song of Songs form a section of the Bible referred to as "Wisdom" literature.

Other books of the Old Testament are historical or prophetic in nature, but in the Wisdom books, the authors ask questions about God, humanity, and the nature of evil and suffering. In reading these books we can see that "... the Israelites grappled with the same faith issues that we do today: they asked tough questions about sin and suffering; they experienced joy and confidence in God's love; they looked for God in life's pleasures and trials alike; they sometimes entertained doubts and they looked to God for help both physically and spiritually....the wisdom books show us that God values and responds to these myriad questions and prayers. We can take comfort that no experience in our lives, whether wonderful or terrible, can place us outside the love and understanding of a gracious God."

(source: www.biblegateway.com)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

(PLEASE SIGN THE FRIENDSHIP PAD.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

CONSOLATION NO. 3 IN D-FLAT MAJOR

FRANZ LISZT

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

UNISON

Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for your blessings in our lives—big and small, known and unknown. As you have come to be with us in Jesus, may the gifts that we give today witness to your love, always being born into the world. Move through our lives that we may give you glory and show forth the wonder of your love. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

UNISON

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your desires for your creation, at this table, and in this meal, you have met us in Christ. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. As we have been nourished and strengthened here, send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Today and every day, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

*CLOSING HYMN 150

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

DIX

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

THE OLD YEAR NOW HAS PASSED AWAY

J. S. BACH

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was a composer, virtuoso pianist, conductor, and teacher. Liszt gained renown in Europe during the early nineteenth century for his virtuosic skill as a pianist. He was said by his contemporaries to have been the most technically advanced pianist of his age, and in the 1840s he was considered by some to be the greatest pianist of all time. Liszt taught many piano students, who in turn taught many others. Among professional pianists even to this day, it is considered impressive to “trace one’s lineage” of piano study back to him.

WE WELCOME YOU TO FAITH DES PERES FOR WORSHIP!

Following the Closing Voluntary, please join us for refreshments in the Gathering Space at the front of the church.

WHO WE ARE...

We are an inter-generational community. Adults and youth know each other on a first-name basis. We come from across the St. Louis metropolitan area. Some of our members have been here a long time, and some of them are new. We accept people for who they are and where they are on their faith journey. We are inquisitive by nature. We are not content with the same old answers to the same old questions, and we are OK with not having all the answers. We welcome young and old, singles and families, regardless of race, nationality or sexual orientation.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. *(From the PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith, 1983.)*

COMMUNION...

Because we believe Christ welcomes everyone to the table, we welcome everyone to the table. Anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ is welcome to take communion at Faith Des Peres; you do not need to be a member of this church to receive communion, and children may also receive communion.

TOGETHER AT FAITH DES PERES

PRAYER REQUESTS

Helen Barks | Joanna Gerst | Toy & Jerry Kircher | Barbara Moorman | Mackenzie Prophete
Mallorie Prophete | Jasmine Reece

THANK YOU!

Worship Team 4: Beth Willock, Terry, Henry and Tommy Epling
Refreshments: Leslie Barnes

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun, 1/5	9:45 am	Special Session meeting
	10:00 am	Childcare
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion; Feeding the Flock
	<i>Sunday School and Tweens classes do not meet today.</i>	
	11:30 am	Coffee and Fellowship
ADG Book Study has been rescheduled for January 12th		
Mon, 1/6	<i>Tai Chi class will not meet tonight—it will resume on 1/13.</i>	
Wed, 1/8	2:30 pm	Shared Ministry meeting
	4:00 pm	Endowment Committee meeting
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun, 1/12	10:00 am	Childcare
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Tweens Class
	11:30 am	Coffee and Fellowship
	12:00 pm	ADG Book Study (lunch at 12; study at 12:30)

FAITH DES PERES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

REV. DR. ANNE B. EPLING, PASTOR | DR. GAY HOLMES SPEARS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST
11155 CLAYTON ROAD | FRONTENAC, MO | 63131 | 314-432-8029 | WWW.FAITHDESPERES.ORG