

Order of Service 1.1.23
Epiphany of the Lord/New Year's Day
Liturgical Color: White

Prelude—

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing —Smith

Acolyte— Melissa B.

Welcome/Opening Hymn

How Great is Our God (CCLI# 2298355)

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

I Saw the Light (CCLI Song # 45064)

Verse 1

I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Chorus

I saw the light I saw the light
No more in darkness no more in night
(And) now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Verse 2

Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that
God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Verse 3

I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Announcements/Morning Prayer

INVITATION

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

Anthem

Word of God Speak—
Performed by Justin Harper

Offering

Of the Father's Love Begotten
—11th C./arr. Hayes

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture

Luke 15:11-24 (NRSVUE)

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with

compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Sermon Bruce Gwyn

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Taking the Bread and Cup
Communion Meditation—arr. Johnson

Closing Hymn
How Great Thou Art (UMH 77)

Verse 1
O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hand have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Verse 2
When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
[Refrain]

Verse 3
And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin;
[Refrain]

Verse 4
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
[Refrain]

Benediction

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Postlude
To God Be the Glory—Johnson

**Response is in bold.*

Happy New Year! The church office will be closed on January 2 and will reopen Tuesday, January 3.

KID Central is our church’s church for ages 5-12. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth and Children’s Ministries Director, Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cumckm.org.

UMYF United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to join/volunteer for youth events, please contact Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cumckm.org or 704-739-2471.

If you need to contact **Pastor Bruce Gwyn** please contact/text him at 704-291-0212 or pastor@cumckm.org.

Ushers: Joe Patterson
Greeter: TBA



The ladies’ circles of Central would like to invite the women of the church to meet together on Monday, February 6th at 6:30 pm in the CAC.

Anyone interested in joining a ladies group is welcome to attend. We will discuss future projects and decide on a new name for this group.

Light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions please contact Stephanie Wilson

(704-466-0187),

Amy Dixon (980-215-5757) or

Marie Brinkley (704-277-6961).

We look forward to seeing you in February!



There will be informational meetings after service every Sunday during January. We will discern the direction for Central Methodist during these meetings.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT
ATTENDANCE**

(12/18) 10:00a Service.....130

Operating Fund

Contributions 12/18 \$ 6,205.00

Contributions YTD \$ 383,526.84

Capital Improvements Fund

Contributions 12/18 \$0.00

Contributions YTD \$0.00

PRAYER LIST: PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Members in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Homebound: Jane Edwards; Barbara Bridges; Ruth Wilson, John & Evelyn Eagle; Marilyn Hamrick.

Military Personnel: SSGT Tyler Dixon-Marines; SSGT Jonathan Brucker-Army; SSgt. Joshua Brucker; Army; CAPT Alex Plonk-Air Force; S 1 Tyler Hellstrand-Navy; Abbey Wallace-Air Force (Afghanistan); SSG Colby Bailey—Army; LT Boone McDaniel, Navy; CAPT Wendell Bunch, Jr.—Army; CAPT Alex Young,—Air Force; PFC Matthew Oliveira—Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX.

Concerns (members/constituents/church-related concerns): Guidance in developing new ministries; our college students; Community Kitchen Ministry; Penny Norwood (knee surgery recovery) 10.10.22; Ray Robinson (surgery); Jim Ware (death) 12.6.22.

Concerns (friends/relatives/other concerns): All children in need; Samuel Smith (cancer) 9.30.19; Sidney Bridges (brain tumor) 9.19.21; Freida Grant 2.21.22; Sherry Curtis 4.20.22; Jennifer Wall 4.26.22; Parker Byrd 7.27.22; Clyde V. (motorcycle accident); Robert Childers, Sr., 9.22.22; Terry and Johnny Neil 10.17.22; Charles Bagwell 10.17.22; Tina Melton 10.24.22; Marsha & Carl Morrow 12.1.22.