

# Epiphany: Worship and Spirituality

January 7, 2018

## GATHERING

Welcome

Don Rheinheimer

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Blue #212

Jeremy Kropf, Songleader

Call to Worship

Leader: The light of the Spirit is here.  
It resides among us and we carry it within us.

**All: It is the star of the East;  
it is the morning sun.**

Leader: It is as old as the moon,  
throughout all generations.

**All: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: You, O God, have caused the mountains to shake.  
You have torn open the heavens,  
and your glory reaches to the earth and beyond.

**All: May we, like the magi,  
seek you until we find you.  
May we offer our gifts in your presence,  
no matter where you are found.**

Leader: Yes! Let your mystery be declared.

Opening Prayer

## PRAISING

Music for Meditation

Melissa Beitler

*We Three Kings of Orient Are* (arr. Livingston)

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Blue #211

*The First Noel, the Angel Did Say*

Blue #199

## HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Denise Harshbarger

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord.

**People: Our ears are open.**

Matthew 2: 1-12 (p. 783); Ephesians 3: 1-12 (p. 950)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Shawn Rodriguez

“Encountering the Divine”

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Green #95

## SHARING IN COMMUNITY

Communion

Hillary Watson

(Our bread is gluten-free.)

*You Are Salt for the Earth*

Blue #226

Offering

Melissa Beitler, Offertory

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* (arr. Berry)

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Congregational Announcements

## SENDING

*This Little Light of Mine*

Blue #401

Benediction

## This Week's Activities

**Today**

Nurse: Jimmy Orjala, Kristin Rauh

10:00 AM

Paul Reimer, Laura Larson

11:15 AM

Adult Classes

11:30 AM

- *Pamela in Palestine: Personal Perspectives* (Sanctuary)
- *Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ* (Conference Room)

<b>Mon</b>	Pastoral Search Committee	7:00 PM
<b>Tue</b>	Lunch Bunch at Maxfields	12:00 PM
	Worship Commission	7:00 PM
	Pastoral Care	7:30 PM
<b>Wed</b>	WOW Bible Study	9:30 AM
<b>Fri-Sun</b>	MYF Winter Retreat at Menno Haven	

- This year, the **delegate session of Illinois Mennonite Conference** will be held on Saturday, February 17, at Metamora Mennonite Church. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Cynthia, Jeff, or Don. The agenda will involve budget and leadership considerations as well as an extended discussion of the future direction of the conference.

## Announcements

- The sanctuary class for the next two weeks is “**Pamela in Palestine**,” led by Pam E. Today, she’ll share her photos and experiences from her trip to Palestine with Abraham’s Children in July, 2017. Next Sunday will focus on the Israeli occupation in Palestine, with an emphasis on what you can do to advocate for justice and peace in that troubled region.
- This summer, the **MYF** are looking for enthusiastic and spiritually mature adults to accompany their summer trip. Could it be you? Talk to Hillary if you are interested; dates are not yet scheduled and are still flexible.
- Worship Commission is looking for more adults and teens to **lead Children’s Time** during worship. Share a song, tell a story, or act out a Bible passage with the littlest members of our church. There are tips to guide you and you can co-lead with someone to test if this is your passion. Talk to Pastor Hillary if you’re interested.
- Thank you for your **faithful and generous giving** in 2017! We closed the year very well, with income over expenses and a healthy budget surplus. Praise God!
- Volunteers are needed for a **Mennonite Disaster Service** IL Unit project in Ottawa, IL. The project begins in February and volunteers can help a day or two, or a week or more. This project is flexible. If you’ve wanted to volunteer with MDS but aren’t able to travel far or get away for a week, this project is for you. For further details, contact Jill M.
- “How the Light Gets In”: **Cherith L.** is exhibiting new paintings, drawings, and prints at Wheaton College’s Adams Hall gallery. There will be a reception on Friday, January 12, at 4:30 PM. Show dates are January 8 through February 9, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.