

# January 2024 Worship Guide

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*This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of January 2024.*

*As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan*

# Happy New Year

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A new year stretching out before us promises endless opportunities to improve, to be better people. Many of our New Year's resolutions—to read more, stick to a budget, or be more physically active, for example—express an inward focus. But what if we resolved to begin the year by turning our attention outward?

In the above passage, the apostle Paul prays that the Ephesians would know God. That seems strange since they were already following Christ, but Paul knew the importance of truly, intimately knowing the Lord. It is, as Jesus told His disciples, the substance of eternal life (John 17:3). So Paul prayed their hearts would be enlightened as they gained spiritual wisdom and insight about the “mystery” of the gospel (Ephesians 1:9).

Paul understood that “His body” (v. 23) meant Jews and Gentiles alike, and he wanted to make sure the Ephesians—who were Gentiles—understood that, too. So he prayed for them to see and understand God's work in their lives and community—both in “this age” and “the one to come” (v. 21).

This year, let's allow Paul's words to guide us as we pray for our own communities—that a spirit of wisdom and revelation would deepen their knowledge of God and their experience of eternal life in Christ.

# January Worship

**January 7, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

## **Call to Worship**

Arise! Shine! God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year. Arise! Shine! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Arise! Shine! God's light pierces the darkness that covers the world. Arise! Shine! Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

## **Prayer of Confession**

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 of pride hides 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 baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of glorious light, we thank you for this Holy Mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Like the wise men sent by Herod, we, too, come as searchers for a glimpse of your presence. You have led us to yourself so that you may give yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, and be that Star that shines so brightly of your love, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**January 14, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

1 Sam 3:1-20; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 ; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

## **Call to Worship**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Covenant making God, you made us your people and gave your Son as the commitment of your love. It was by his blood that we were baptized into a right relationship with you. Yet, we make trivial both his blood and the water, which brings into the life of Your Church. Forgive us for our Sin towards you, one another, and ourselves. Restore us to harmony with you, and all creation we pray. Rekindle in us that flame of commitment to You, through your one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church. May our lives reflect your love in Christ Jesus, as we are continually reminded that you have claimed us as your beloved children.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving - Wesleyan Covenant Prayer**

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you. Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

# January Worship

**January 21, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

## **Call to Worship**

The God of all creation calls us. We come, knowing that our deliverance and honor rest in God. Power and steadfast love belong to God. Let go of your worry, regrets, and sorrow. We come to sing, pray, listen, and celebrate the presence of this mighty, loving God who has called us to let go and follow.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy Fountain of Forgiveness, the story of Jonah reminds us of your never-ending love for all creation. May we be like the people of Nineveh, who were able to acknowledge their sin and open their eyes to your healing presence. May we be like the disciples who dropped their nets, left their boat, and followed you into a new life. Forgive us for our reluctance to open our doors and our hearts to others. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers, and even enemies, for fear they just might become friends. We trust you, Holy One; we pour out our hearts to you. Receive the pain that lurks in our humanity, as we offer up what we have hidden from ourselves and from the world, those words and deeds that keep us separated from your love.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that you help grow the trust in us so that we might follow without looking back and we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore and leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen.

**January 28, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## **Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people. How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them. Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and saviors to help us, to save us, to raise us, and our response is to question You. You heal someone, and we ask, "Why not this one too?" You shower food upon some who hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling. We break your image in us, as we create ourselves in the image and likeness of the unclean spirit. Forgive us. Forgive us not for our doubts, but for our limited perspective. Open wide before us the view of your grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of your healing power.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love and authority known to all. Help us to leave behind everything that keeps us from following you. When we question, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth," remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from "among the people." Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send, as you lead us into a new life. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher, and our redeemer. Amen

# Epiphany Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

R A D D I G A M J H W D T S D G D P F H  
R A R R K S F S A R X L H P J L A C I C  
R O Z H P T O I N R U O X W K W G P X K  
T Z I A S Z L T U Y H G B U A J U D O W  
R P W H H Z Q P A M Z E R T I D B Y T F  
C A M M C T V A R Q M P V C O G B J E O  
R Y B A B E L B Y E Z I A R L O M A Z Z  
Y C U V J P M A H Q W P E I B K S W O F  
Y Y H P E H X E B K M H L Q P T I U C T  
H A Y R P S L P E S W A H O L I D A Y S  
S O D R I H N M C H L N F H Z R W W L T  
Y Y P H T S T E E X Y Y L R T M A J B A  
N N S E T R T R C O G W O C A S P A R R  
J U B I J F L I C N R E V E L A T I O N  
G Y F E X E L C A R I M T S R I F E K E  
Y J S J W T C E E N W K U G P B O C K M  
L U A X A W H C W Y D N N Q D D F L I E  
S G N I K E E R H T D W O A Y D N W E S  
P R P A E M X S W A G F Z T R D G I S I  
A Y J W Z Z C B Y V I M H N K F D W I W

BABY

FEAST

JANUARY

STAR

BALTHAZAR

FIRST MIRACLE

JESUS

SUNDAY

BAPTISM

FRANKINCENSE

MAGI

THREE KINGS

BETHLEHEM

GOLD

MECHIOR

TWELFTH DAY

CASPAR

HEROD

MYRRH

WISEMEN

CHRISTIAN

HOLIDAY

REVELATION

EPIPHANY

HOPE

SIXTH