

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 4, 2025 10:30AM

WELCOME

Emma Bushong

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, CONNECTION, AND GIVING

You may give online by visiting belmontumc.org/give, texting BELMONT to 73256, scanning the giving QR code (back of bulletin), contacting Sara Christi (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mailing your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

CENTERING PRAYER

**Creator of the stars of night, you fashioned us from the dust of stars, and, by a star in the East,
you revealed to the world the one who is called “God with us.”
Help us to remember that you are with us today,
and help us remember that we are beloved children of God.
Led by your star in our hearts, we pray. Amen.**

PRELUDE

Greensleeves
Robbie Jones, organ

Richard Purvis

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.
God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit,
hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love’s presence,
the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

May the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown,
those who are marginalized, and unexpected gifts.

**God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together
and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.¹**

†HYMN

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

†PRAYER OF THE DAY

Matthew Webb

RESPONSE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

†GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12 | *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas
Sanctuary Choir

Dan Forrest

SERMON

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Heather Harriss

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength,
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

silent meditation

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

†THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright
What Feast of Love

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
GREENSLEEVES

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

†HYMN

Jesus Entered Egypt

KING'S WESTON

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL BLESSING

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

Today we sing Total Praise in memory of Richard Smallwood, a prolific composer who passed on December 30, 2025.

POSTLUDE

Puer Nobis Nascitur

David N. Johnson

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Lyvonne Gray by Celeste and Berry Holt.

The rosebud on the altar table celebrates the birth of William Bennett Hunt, son of Katie and Will Hunt and brother of Margot. Bennett was born December 27, 2025.

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Robbie Jones, Organist

Heather Harriss, Senior Associate Pastor

Matthew Webb, Director of Music Ministry

Emma Bushong, Director of Ministry with Young People

Liturgy selected/written by Matthew Webb.

¹adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Epiphany of the Lord, 2025

Memorial

MYRTLE INGERSON

Donors:

Karen & Keith Roberts

In honor of

BETTY JANE TAYLOR

Donor:

Jean Gould

MARY WALKER

Donor:

Margaret Behm

Looking for news and announcements? Our newsletter is now fully digital and features vibrant color photos, engaging graphics, and clickable links to additional resources and information. Additionally, this shift aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship by significantly reducing our paper usage. Look for a newsletter QR code in the bulletin each week or email angie@belmontumc.org to subscribe and have the latest news/events delivered directly to your inbox!

Want more news and announcements?

Email angie@belmontumc.org to sign up for our weekly “Upcoming Events” and “Belmont News” emails.

Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

PROGRAM STAFF

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We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God’s image. We commit to Jesus’ example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

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