

The Welcoming Face of God

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE AS CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

Early Singing H401 This Little Light of Mine
 G475 Jesus in the Morning
 G403 Standin' in the Need of Prayer

Call to Worship

Arise, shine for your light has come!

It's been dark for so long, the kind of darkness you can see in your bones.

But now the light has come

God's glorious light is rising over our heads.

Open your eyes and let them adjust to this new reality. God is illuminating the landscape, and now we begin to see God's goodness.

The light is moving out across boundaries and barriers, filling the whole earth.

All: The light of Christ is a light to all peoples. We rejoice in God's justice and mercy made visible among us.

Opening Prayer

Gathering Song H 648 Morning Has Broken

Prayer of Confession

Song of Praise H 102 To God be the Glory

HEARING GOD

Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Children's Time

Scripture reading Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Message The Welcoming Face of God – Chuck Swan

Response Song H 398 I Love to Tell the Story

MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST-LIKE COMPASSION

Sharing and Prayers of the Congregation

G553 La tenebre (the darkness)

Welcoming God, we live in darkness when we exclude people of other races, religions, economic levels, or educational backgrounds. Too often we judge people's actions instead of loving them for being created in your image. We hide in darkness when we choose ignorance and do not seek the truth about things that are uncomfortable for us. Lord have mercy on us.

(voice prayers of concern and praise)

Welcoming God, strangers in our midst are no longer strangers, for God's light helps us embrace all. We live in hope for right living to flourish and for peace to abound, and we glory in your abundance in all of life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Offering

SENT OUT BY GOD IN CHRIST-LED COURAGE

Benediction and Sending STS 31 Jesus, be the center

NORTH SUBURBAN MENNONITE CHURCH

*“As a living body of Jesus Christ,
our vision at North Suburban
is to be a Christ-centered community,
embodying Christ-like compassion,
living with Christ-led courage.”*

2009 Advent Series ‘Let your face shine’

Nov 29	The hidden face of God
Dec 6	The comforting face of God
Dec 13	The restoring face of God
Dec 20	The indwelling face of God – communion
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service at the Civic Center at 5:30 pm - Potluck following
Dec 27	The embracing face of God
Jan 3	Epiphany: The welcoming face of God

**NORTH SUBURBAN
MENNONITE CHURCH**



“The Adoration of the Magi” by Andrea Mantegna

**Sunday, January 3, 2010
Epiphany Sunday**

NEED TO BE IN TOUCH DURING THE WEEK?
CHANGE IN E-MAIL, PHONE OR MAILING ADDRESS?
CALL COREY SHENK OR ROLAND KUHL: 847-680-3990
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