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Amen.**   \* Hymn    On This Day Earth Shall Ring        GtG #141  Prayer of Confession **Generous God, we love to worship you when the stars are bright above us. We love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze is just right. We love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one. Unfortunately, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy. Now and again, the stars disappear. Our feet get tired and the journey is far too long and lonely. On these days, forgive us for giving up quickly. Forgive us for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home. We want to be as brave as the Magi. We want to persevere. Guide our feet, show us the stars. Amen.**  Silent Prayers of Confession   Words of Assurance (responsive) Leader: You let us rest our weary hearts and revive us once again. **People: Thanks be to God who forgives and restores us with hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**  The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)   The Proclamation of the Word Prayer of Illumination   Generous God, we ask for you to open our hearts and minds this day to hear your Word more clearly and understand your call for us in new and revitalizing ways. Quiet all that distracts us and allow us to come into this moment as if we are hearing these words for the first time. Amen.  Scripture Lesson     **Matthew 2:1-12** The Visit of the Wise Men  **2**In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2**asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” **3**When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4**and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5**They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6**‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” **7**Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8**Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” **9**When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11**On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  Sermon Those Who Dream Will Persevere  The Response to the Word   \* Hymn      What Child is This   GtG #145  Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”** And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to 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 and give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**  Offertory Prayer   Hymn     As With Gladness Men of Old      GtG # 150  Charge & Benediction Leader: Lead us on, **People: To journey in faith,** Leader: Lead us on, **People: Teaching us to trust you when we are tired,** Leader: Lead us on, **People: And we will trust that you will guide our way.** | |  | | | | |