

January 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

This little pocket of time in [the Christian Year](#) between Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the Baptism of Jesus (Sunday after Epiphany) calls us to consider who Jesus is in the context of two beginnings: his earthly life and his earthly ministry. The [Virginia Theological Seminary blog](#) explains it this way:

“The magi identify Jesus as a king... and because the magi are from foreign lands, they identify Jesus as a king for all people. In the baptism story, Jesus is also identified, but in this case his identity is the beloved son of God. As a teaching point, we may link the magi story with the baptism story by saying: ‘These Epiphany stories work together to show us who Jesus is... revealing the fullness of his identity. The magi show us one part of Jesus’ identity, the baptism shows us another part.’”

On Sunday, we will celebrate who Jesus is from both these perspectives!

### **New In-Person Service Time and Other Changes**

In response to concerns related to the Omicron variant, the board has approved the following short-term changes to when and how we gather at Sunnyside:

- One Sunday service will be held at 11 AM only, with livestream. Our maximum capacity in the sanctuary will remain at 75.
- Sunday school will be cancelled until such a time as local school boards resume in-person classroom instruction.
- Sunnyside Youth will continue to meet as they have been, using the same public health guidance that we follow for worship services.

### **Sunday Worship Gathering at 11 a.m.**

[Join the 11 a.m. livestream service here.](#)

When you click on the link above, this will launch the SWC Livestream homepage.

From there you may need to click the “Videos” tab to access this Sunday’s Livestream.

Here are Sunday’s worship songs with lyrics linked:

[One Thing Remains](#)

[Blessed Assurance](#)

[He is Here](#)

[I Will Exalt](#)

[Better is One Day](#)

For this week’s scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday’s bulletin](#).

### **Pastor’s Corner (from Pastor Jesse)**

Join us this Sunday for our first of a seven-week sermon series entitled *Seeing in the Dark*. I want to paint a mental picture for you to better understand what we are looking to get out of this coming Sunday, and how it will prepare us for the coming weeks in this series.

Picture yourself standing in a dark hallway. There are six doors that are open, but no lights are on anywhere. This Sunday we will seek to understand the light that Isaiah is writing about in chapter 60:1-6 and be able to turn on the hallway light above us. In doing so we will be able to see into this hall of doors, each leading to a room that contains a topic that we will look to shine more light on in the coming weeks. As we progress through this series the rooms will become illuminated through the messages our various speakers will deliver and we will be able to see God more clearly in the dark.

### **Praying for You**

Our prayer team will resume meeting again this Tuesday morning and it is their privilege to pray for you. [Click here](#) to send in your prayer requests.

In closing, let [this poem](#) by Malcolm Guite inspire us to follow Jesus anew in this new year:

“He calls us too, to step into that river; to die and rise and live and love forever.”

- Beth Fleming (for the whole team)