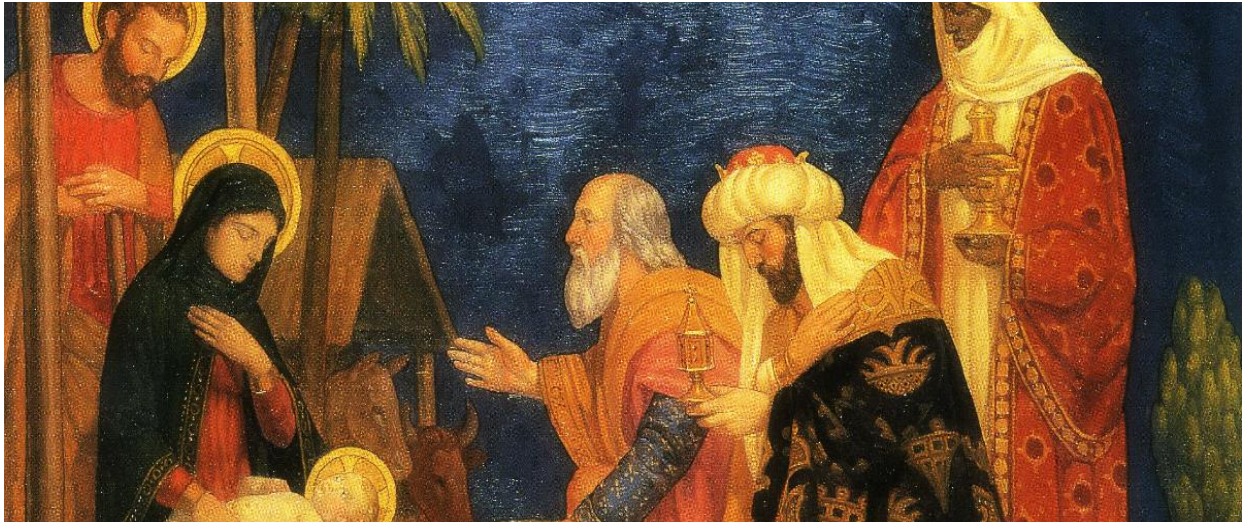


TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 7, 2024 9:30 AM
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

–TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD –

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year! We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM.

Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.

PRELUDE

“Worthy Is The Lamb”
Contemporary Praise Band

Hillsong United

GREETING

Celebrant: *In many ways the Holy One has spoken of old, but now God has been made known in Christ, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. Let us sing a new song to the God who loves us and who receives us as children and heirs with Christ.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

People: We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky; and like the Magi, we have come to worship.

L: Glory be to God, and to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

P: Glory be to God, and to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world!

Let us pray:

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**HYMN

“The First Noel”

#245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star where'er it went. Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Refrain

****PASSING THE PEACE**

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

-WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD-

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Liturgist: The prophet Isaiah brings a word of hope and blessing to the nation, Israel.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Here ends the reading.

SACRED DANCE

Teasa Luke Dancers

PSALTER

Psalms 72:1-14

#795

R  I will give you as a light to the nations, my salvation to the ends of the earth. 

Liturgist: Give the king your justice, O God,

People: and your righteousness to the royal son.

Liturgist: May he judge your people with righteousness,

People: and your poor with justice.

Liturgist: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

Liturgist: May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**People: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

Liturgist: In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, til the moon be no more.

**People: May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. R**

Liturgist: May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

**People: May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him.**

Liturgist: For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

People: He has pity on the weak and the needy,

Liturgist: and saves the lives of the needy.

**People: From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight. R**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Liturgist: The Apostle Paul reminds the church at Ephesus of the mysteries
of God's glory in the person of Jesus Christ.**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+ Matthew 2:1-15 +

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**"Good News"
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

Jay Althouse

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: Arise, shine for your light has come;

Response: shine your glory on us, O Lord.

Gracious and loving Creator, in Christ you have revealed to all the earth the mystery of your love, spreading your illumination and your abundant promises to all humanity. Hear us now and visit us with that light as we pray: Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Guide your church, O Holy One, that it may manifest the boundless riches of Christ by becoming a true servant of your grace.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Let the nations come to your light, O God, and bring rulers to the brightness of your day, that they may rule your people righteously, speak truthfully and serve the poor with justice and equity.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Thwart the schemes of those who abuse the resources of the world, O Creator, that the showers that water the earth may produce bountifully for all. Call us to renew our work as good stewards of your earth.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Manifest your Son to our community, O Merciful One, and lead us to your presence, that we might remember the lowly and poor, and preserve the lives of the needy.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially those we have named aloud and those we now bring before you in silence.

(moment of silence) We give thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us – treasures of your boundless grace.

Arise, shine for your light has come; **shine your glory on us, O Lord.**

Celebrant: And so, gracious and loving God, we come before you with the gifts of ourselves: Accept the offering of our lives as vessels to hold and pour out your presence and let the light of your Spirit shine within and among us that we may share in the mystery of your loving purposes for all creation, through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: By the goodness of God, we are called into the family of the church. By God's grace, we rejoice to share in the church's life of mission and ministry. As today we remember the Magi offering gifts to the

newborn King, so let us offer our tithes and gifts to God's glory as a token of the offering of our very lives.

****DOXOLOGY**

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant: Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

- WE RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS -

INVITATION

Todd and Briana Steinberg

Celebrant: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we are each received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: *I do.*

Celebrant: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: *I do.*

Celebrant: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: *I do.*

Celebrant: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidate: *I promise, with the help of God.*

Celebrant: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: *I do, with the help of God.*

QUESTION TO THE CANDIDATES AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? If so, please answer:

All: *I promise, with the help of God.*

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Celebrant: Let us, the members of the Tully United Community Church, express our welcome to Todd and Briana, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: *We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. God, grant that together we may continue to grow in His knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.*

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Moderator: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Tully United Community Church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love and fellowship, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this

local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

INVITATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might hold them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the realm of God." And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

ADDRESS

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parent(s): I/We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): I/We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): I/We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): I/We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering

Christ's mission in the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian Church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parent(s)/Sponsor(s): I/We do, with the help of God.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND BLESSING OF WATER

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit.

Now bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless him who is touched by this water that he may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on his life. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: By what name is this child to be called?

Parent(s): Julian James Steinberg.

Pastor: Julian James Steinberg, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Julian, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the Church.

PRESENTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

****HYMN**

"Jesus Loves Me"

v.1

#191

PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Pastor: Let us pray for this child baptized today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child, Julian. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless his parents, family, and friends. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Julian. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

LITURGY OF COMMUNION – THE EUCHARIST

Responses on page 15 in the front of the hymnal.

You will be instructed when to come forward. Gluten free option available – ask at the altar.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Adults, youth, and children come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table. It is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.

In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim
release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set a liberty
those who were oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when
you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in
ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at
his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in

your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and for ever. Amen.

The body of Christ, the bread of life.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You have given yourself to us, Lord. Now we give ourselves for others. Your love has made us a new people; As a people of love we will serve you with joy. Your glory has filled our hearts. Help us to glorify you in all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

****HYMN**

"Sing We Now Of Christmas"

#237

**1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises To the Babe so dear.**

***Chorus:* Sing we Noel, the King is Born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**2. Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest;
Journey forth to Bethl'hem, Find the child so blest." *Chorus***

**3. In Bethlehem they found Him; Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, Watching the holy Child. *Chorus***

**4. From the eastern country Came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl'hem, Guided by a star. *Chorus***

**5. Gold and myrrh they took there, Gifts of greatest price;
There was ne'er a stable So like paradise. *Chorus***

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Celebrant: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

And God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all, this season and forever.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- What might it look like to travel along with the wise men with their eyes trained on a star — trying to fathom what they are seeing, why they are following?
- Even before that, what might we hear if we dropped in on their conversations with advisers and loved ones as they prepared for this arduous journey to a far away country?
- What must the Magi have sensed when they stopped for directions (or to pay respects?) to King Herod on their way to Bethlehem?
- What might we see as we look at the faces of Mary and Joseph as they welcomed these exotic visitors from so far away? Would they have known even then that this birth was more wondrous than even they had imagined? Would they have been surprised at the gifts offered their still young child?
- What is your response to the knowledge that Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus became refugees – illegal aliens – in the land of Egypt? How does that affect your feelings about modern refugees seeking asylum? In what ways does this part of the story of Jesus inform our response to the Kurdish refugees here in Tully?

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Thank you for the cross, Lord.
 Thank you for the price you paid.
 Bearing all my sin and shame,
 In love you came,
 And gave amazing grace.

Thank you for this love, Lord.
 Thank you for the nail pierced hands.
 Washed me in your cleansing flow,
 Now all I know,
 Is your forgiveness and embrace!

Worthy is the Lamb,
 Seated on the throne.
 Crown you now with many crowns,
 You reign victorious!

High and lifted up,
 Jesus, son of God.
 The Joy of Heaven crucified
 Worthy is the Lamb,
 Worthy is the Lamb.