

WELCOME TO
MORNING WORSHIP



Sunday, January 3, 2021

- FIRST -
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BETTER TOGETHER
Loving God | Helping Others | Finding Joy

GATHERING

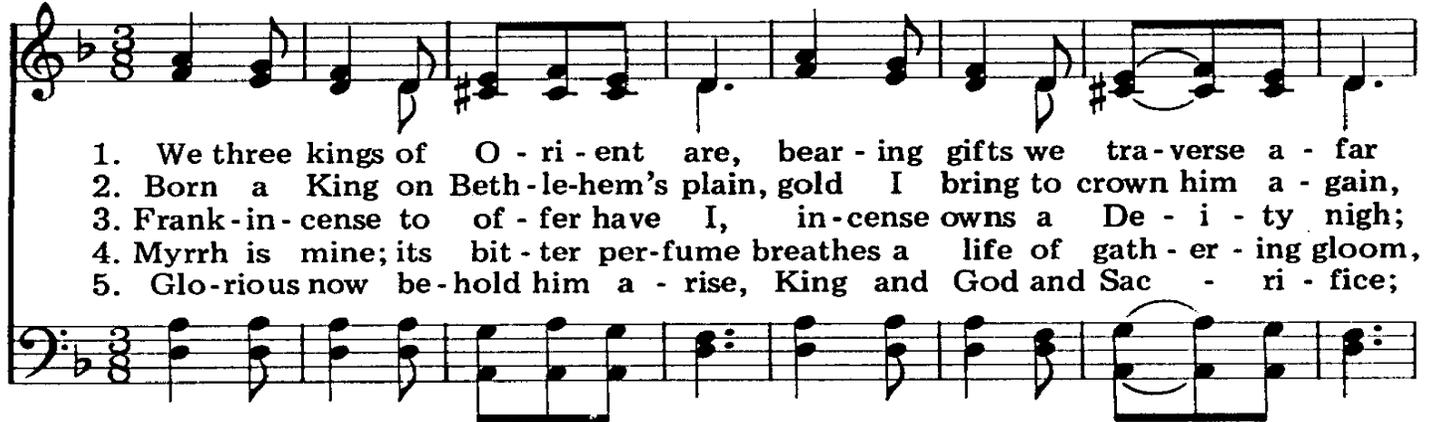
PRELUDE "An Epiphany Suite" (Prelude & Meditation)

arr. Charles Callahan, © 1992 Morning Star Music Publishers

Performed by Ed Swartz

HYMN

"We Three Kings"

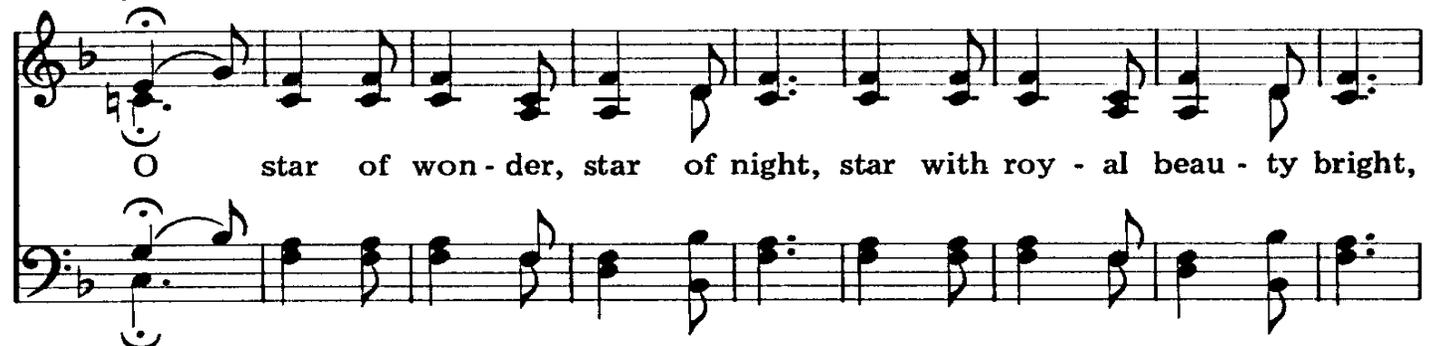


1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom,
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

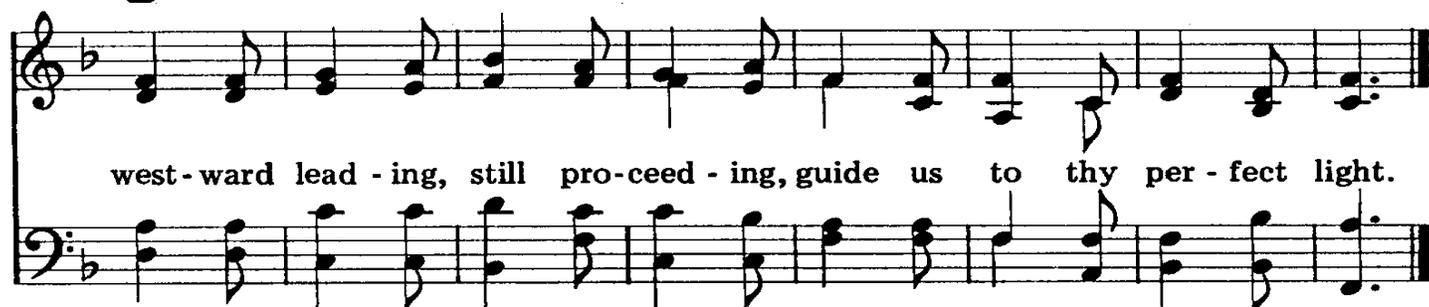


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds thro' the earth and skies.

Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING BELL

SOLEMN DECLARATION

Pastor: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Organ: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 72:10-14 (NRSV)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Organ: Amen.

Pastor: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Almighty and most merciful God our heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before Thee, under a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt. We have grievously sinned against Thee, in thought, in word and in deed. We have come short of Thy glory; we have broken Thy commandments and turned aside, every one of us, from the way of life. Yet now, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon Thee with penitent hearts, and for the sake of Thy son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Pardon our sins; take away our guilt and grant us Thy peace. Purify us, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit from all inward uncleanness and make us able and willing to serve Thee in newness of life, to the glory of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Organ: Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Organ: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Organ: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Organ: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

Pastor: Hearken now unto the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all that repent and believe: As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Unto as many of you, therefore, beloved sisters and brothers, as truly repent of your sins, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, with full purpose of new obedience, I announce and declare, by the authority and in the Name of Christ, that your sins are forgiven, according to his promise in the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Organ: Amen.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² 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. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

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.

Pastor: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Every Knee Shall Bow” *Pastor Jon Bauman*

THE APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our

Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pastor*)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Pastor*)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. You who come to Me shall not hunger; you who believe in Me shall never thirst."

Pastor: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in sharing of this life-giving bread. Let us pray.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Pastor: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Pastor: We lift them up to the Lord our God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Pastor: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: It is right and good to give You thanks, Almighty God, for You are the source of light and life. You made us in Your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ. In all times and places Your people proclaim Your glory in unending praise.

In the fullness of time, You sent Your only Son to save us. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of Your favored one, Mary, sharing our life, He reconciled us to Your love.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus took bread; giving thanks to You, He broke the bread and offered it to His disciples, saying: "Take this and eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me."

Taking a cup, again He gave thanks to You, shared the cup with His disciples and said: "This is the cup of the new covenant in My blood. Drink from this, all of you. This is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in Your sight.

Loving God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Through Your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in Your Holy Church, all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Pastor*)

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives.

Consecrate, therefore, by Your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may be united with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to You, eternal God, and give thanks that You have called us to serve You. Amen.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Partake now of the bread as you are able at home.

Take and eat, in remembrance of Him.

Partake now of the cup as you are able.

Take and drink, in remembrance of Him.

Feel the presence of God within your hearts.

A time of silence and reflection.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, You have called Your people from the East and West, and North and South, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant Church of the servant Christ, in Whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

Pastor: He says, "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."

Pastor: When you open your door, we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life.

Pastor: He says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor: Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who are saved by belief and grace and all who keep Your word to love others as themselves. Amen.

(If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.)

CHARGE *(Pastor)*

BENEDICTION *(Pastor)*

POSTLUDE “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
arr. Charles Callahan, © 1990 Morning Star Music Publishers
Performed by Ed Swartz

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRIST’S COMMUNITY CAFÉ – Starting Saturday, January 9 (continuing the 2nd Saturday of each month) – Grab and Go lunch from 9:00-11:00 am (Sandwich, Fruit, Snack, Sweet, and Drink – While Supplies Last) at First Church.

JANUARY 24 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2021 – Mark your calendar now for the annual congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 24 via Zoom. All information will be shared in the January newsletter.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED for 2021 Church Council. If you are interested in serving, or if you have questions about serving on Church Council, please speak to the Pastors or any Council member.

2021 BUDGET requests are due now. Please forward any information and/or requests to the Church Office or to a member of Church Council or the finance committee as soon as possible.

