

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022



**An Ecumenical Prayer Service
Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Region
of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Friday, January 21
7 p.m.**

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7195735454?pwd=VTI4V2ZYSVZrSzdSODE0Ull3emRjZz09>

Dial in by calling:

1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 719 573 5454

Passcode if requested: 10500

Preparation of space:

You are invited to bring a candle and lift it up midway through our prayer together.

Instrumentals: Flute video: Rev. Michael Nicosia
Guitar and vocal: Greg Madden

Harp video: Elaine Hild

L: Leader

C: Congregation

R: Reader

Call to Worship: Instrumental

Church of the Beloved ECC, Northglenn

L: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: Children of the Light, we are united this day with believers from all the lands of the earth as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. This year, we do so with worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Our texts are inspired by the visit of the Magi to the Anointed One, as described in Matthew's Gospel.

L: We observed the star in the East, and have come to worship him. Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too. We come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing God can dispel threatening shadows with Light. As we pray this day for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Savior.

L: Glory be to you, Source of All-being, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship the Infant just as the Magi did. We offer ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

C: Unite us with one another as we come from all directions of the earth, old and young, to bow down before you and offer you homage. Amen.

Hymn: We Three Kings

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11. Text and music: Carols, Hymns, and Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

1. We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, Ceasing never, Over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3. Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, Gladly raising, Worship him, God on high. *Refrain*

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
"Alleluia, Alleluia!" Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

Prayer of Praise and Confession

Light of Christ ECC, Longmont

L: We glorify you, God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from dark and arranged signs to mark sacred times, days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

C: We glorify you, O God.

L: We praise you, O God, for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion, but sent your Son to be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the dark.

C: We praise you, O God.

L: We worship you, O God, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit. You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

C: We worship you, O God.

L: We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

C: We thank you, O God.

Mary of Magdala ECC, Fort Collins

L: May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred to dwell in the shadows, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins and saying:

R: We confess before you that we have turned away from your ways and disobeyed your ordinances. We have disfigured your good creation and squandered its resources

through our consumerist practices. We have polluted your rivers and seas and poisoned your air and soil and contributed to the extinction of many species. *(Silence)*

R: We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have allowed our own needs and desires to prevail over our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted the seeds of distrust towards the other. *(Silence)*

R: We have separated people based on ethnicity, religion and gender and we have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O God, as we come before you in repentance. *(Silence)*

L: Source of All, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem all people. We ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world. *(Silence)*

L: Everlasting God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives us our sins.

C: **Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.**

Sharing the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 **Mary of Magdala ECC, Fort Collins**

Psalms 8 Church of the Holy Family ECC, Aurora

R1: O GOD our Ruler, how exalted is your Name in all the world!

R2: Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.

R1: You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.

R2: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

R2: What is humankind that you should be mindful of them? the child of humankind that you should seek them out?

R1: You have made them but little lower than the angels; you adorn them with glory and honor;

R1: You give them command over the works of your hands; you put all things under their feet:

R2: All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,

R2: The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

C: **O God, our Ruler, how exalted is your Name in all the world!**

Chant: The Lord is my Light (Taizé)

© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation
In God I trust, In God I trust

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 **St. Paul ECC, Denver**

Gospel Acclamation: (Sung) Alleluia

Proclamation of the Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Instrumental

Expression of Gratitude:

Bishop Kae Madden, Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Sharing Christ's Light

L: A star led the Magi to Christ. Today this star points to the presence of Christ, who has been revealed to us and whose light shines on us. As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today, adding our own stars and lights to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of the Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that leads others to know Christ.

Those gathered are invited to raise their lit candles high during the Hymn

"Shine, Jesus Shine" Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music

- 1) Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

- 2) Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me Refrain
- 3) As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me Refrain

Prayers of Intercession

St. Paul ECC, Denver

L: With faith and confidence, we come in prayer before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

R: The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries. We pray this day for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition: Lord, we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

C: Hear our prayer.

R: The early years of our Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod. We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where the results are tangible: Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your kin*dom among us.

C: Hear our prayer.

R: After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt. We pray for all refugees and uprooted people in this world: Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

C: Hear our prayer.

R: The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religious beliefs in worship of the holy child. We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

C: Hear our prayer.

R: The Magi returned to their home by a different way. We pray for our churches in this changing world: Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

C: Hear our prayer.

R: Please unmute and offer your prayers...

L: When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy. Heavenly Creator, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

C: Our Father in heaven...(while muted, please pray in your own tradition)

Sending and Blessing: Church of the Beloved ECC

Our thanks to the Middle East Council of Churches for gathering Christians around the globe. And, thank you, all of you, for participating in this prayer of Christian Unity on such short notice.

L: Go now and live as children of the light.

R: For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

R: Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

R: Go to work now with eyes fixed on the Star to bring visible unity to the Christian churches.

L: Peace be to the whole community, and love and faith, from God the Father and the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Grace be with all who have an undying love for Jesus Christ.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

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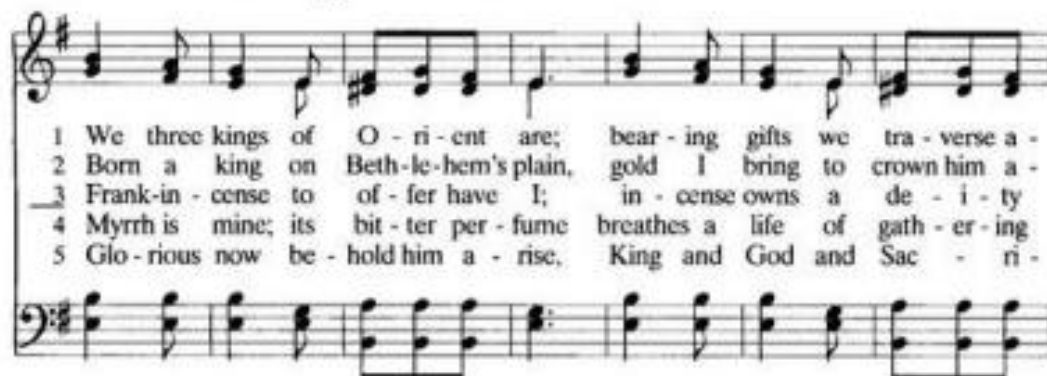
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God. (Repeat)
We are marching, We are marching, oh-oh,
We are marching in the light of God. (Repeat)

We are living in the love of God,
We are living in the love of God, (Repeat)
We are living, We are living, oh-oh
We are living in the love of God, (Repeat)

We are moving in the power of God,
We are moving in the power of God, (Repeat)
We are moving, We are moving, oh-oh
We are moving in the power of God. (Repeat)

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We Three Kings of Orient Are

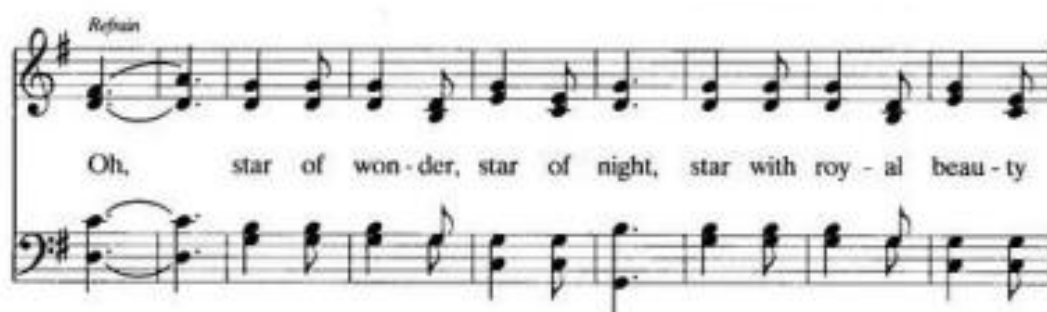


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo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

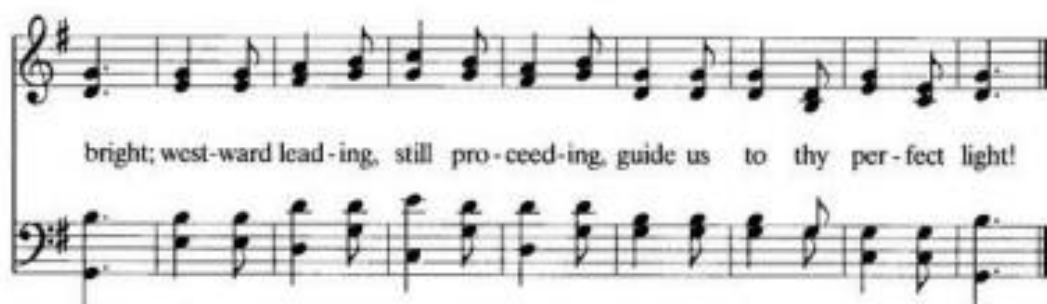


far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 tice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, 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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
 Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT
 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

Lord the light of your love

(Shine Jesus shine)

Capo 2(G)

Graham Kendrick

Majestic and steady

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing,

in the midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the

World, shine up - on us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.

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1 of 2

G Esus⁴ E G Esus⁴ E

Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

A E/A A D A/C# Bm E

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
Flow, ri - ver, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

1.

A E/A A D A/C# Bm Bm/A G E

blaze, Spi - rit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
send forth your word, Lord, and

2. *Last time*

Bm E7 A D/A E/A D/A D.S. A D/A A

let there be light.

2. Lord I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all your darkness
Shine on me, shine on me
3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our face display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me