



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, January 8, 2023)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

The Caravan of the Magi

J. H. Maunder

Approach and Departure

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Sharon MacInnes, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

Let us worship!

Opening Hymn: "We Three Kings"

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

Refrain:

Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Glorious now behold him arise, God and King and sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our heart.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.
Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to stay in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive our sin, Lord, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

This is good news: Christ is the light of the world who grants forgiveness and healing for our brokenness.

Thanks be to God for the gifts of God's mercy and peace. Alleluia!
Amen.

Response: “In My Life”

**In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In my life Lord, be glorified today.
In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In your church Lord, be
glorified today.**

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Ordination and Installation of Officers:

Ordination Song: “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination (Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is proclaimed. Guide us again to Christ and direct us in new paths of faithfulness. For the sake of Christ, we pray.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

(Liturgist)

¹In 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.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.’ ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Journeying with the Magi

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Call to offering (Liturgist)

As the wise men entered the house, they knelt in joy and worshiped Jesus. Opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts. So we come into God's house today, offering him gifts from our own stores of treasure. Offering plates are available in the front and back of the sanctuary to receive our gifts. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

God of glory and light, you led the magi to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your Son whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless our gifts, we pray, as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Hymn: “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)

Benediction

Postlude: **Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light** Schop/Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning. You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music,
Sharon MacInnes, liturgist and Jon Jelsma, technology team