



**Online Worship Resource** (Sunday, January 3, 2021)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude:

**Caravan of the Magi**

J. H. Maunder

(Approach and departure)

Matthew 2:10

*"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."*

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship**

Angus MacInnes, Liturgist

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**The glory of God shines in the darkness.**

In this New Year, and as we celebrate Epiphany today,

**May our hearts rejoice and our minds be open.**

Come, let us worship the Christ child, the hope of the world.

**Opening Hymn:** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

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.

Glorious now behold him arise, God and King and sacrifice.

Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

## Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

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

O God, like the Magi walking toward you as they followed a star, may the scriptures read and heard today help lead us to you and to new understandings of your Word. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> 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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And 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

**“Overwhelmed With Joy”**

Rev. Carrie Yearick

**Hymn after Sermon:** “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

We have a new year and a fresh start before us. How might we take this opportunity to express our thanks to God? As we offer our gifts and tithes to God, may they stretch into the lives of those who are struggling in any way. May we take God's light out into the world! Please join me in our prayer of dedication...

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious and Loving God, we are so thankful for the turning of the year where we now catch glimpse of hope in the form of vaccines, fresh starts in our lives, and spiritual renewal as we move forward. Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

### **Sharing the Lord's Supper**

Call to Confession

Knowing God's love is as bright as that natal star, let us come to God with all that we are as we confess our sins:

### **Prayer of Confession**

**O God, we have seen your star shining brightly over us and all the peoples of the earth. But, we admit to you and to each other, that in the midst of so many things going on around us this past year, we sometimes have forgotten to look up and follow your light. Forgive us, we pray, and guide us to the place where you abide, that we may be overwhelmed with joy like the magi before us.**

**Renew a right spirit within us.**

Silent Confession

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Epiphany is good news! The Light comes to save us and gives us abundant life. Friends, believe the Good News...

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.....**

**Sung Response Refrain:**     “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Postlude:

**We Three Kings**

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Carrie Yearick, guest preacher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,

David Maley, piano, Angus MacInnes, liturgist, and

Glenn Fahrig, technology team