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January 5, 2025

The Celebration of Epiphany

Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, January 5, 2025

The Celebration of Epiphany

Gathering Music

Prayer Concerns

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light*

Prelude

Call to Worship (from Psalm 147)

Leader: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God

People: For God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting

Leader: For God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting

People: Great is our God, abundant in power, who lifts up the downtrodden.

All: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!

Hymn: *We Three Kings of Orient Are* #151, attached

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of glory,

you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,

**to reveal your love for all people.
We confess that our sin and pride
hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.
In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and baptize us once again with your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your
glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.
Hear now our silent prayers.**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Glory Be to the Father / Gloria Patri #581, attached

Prayer of Illumination

From the Reading from the Hebrew Scripture:

Isaiah 60: 1-6 pp. 676-677

Reading from the Psalter Psalm 147: 12-20

p. 571, pew Bible

The Word Proclaimed in Music *Come, Follow That Star*

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

pp 877-878, pew Bible

Sermon:

Lead Kindly, Light

Choral Response

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Sung Response: ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit
evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.***

(Doxology, #607 attached)

Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

#129, attached

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...ends with singing of the Lord's Prayer (*insert*)

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread and Cup

Worshipers can come forward to receive bread and cup, taking time to eat and drink as you receive. Those not comfortable coming forward will be served in their seats. A gluten-free option is available.

Prayer after Communion

Sending Song: *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

#136, *attached*

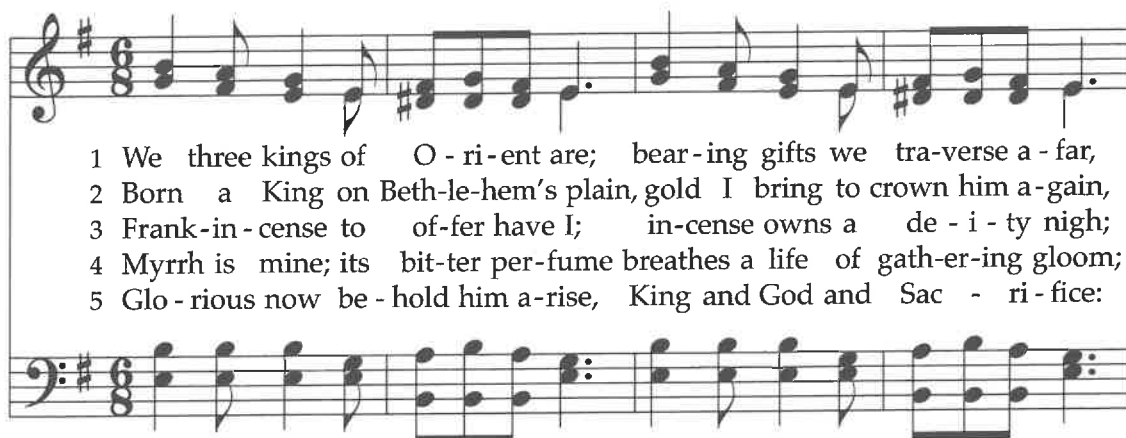
Benediction

Choral Benediction Response:

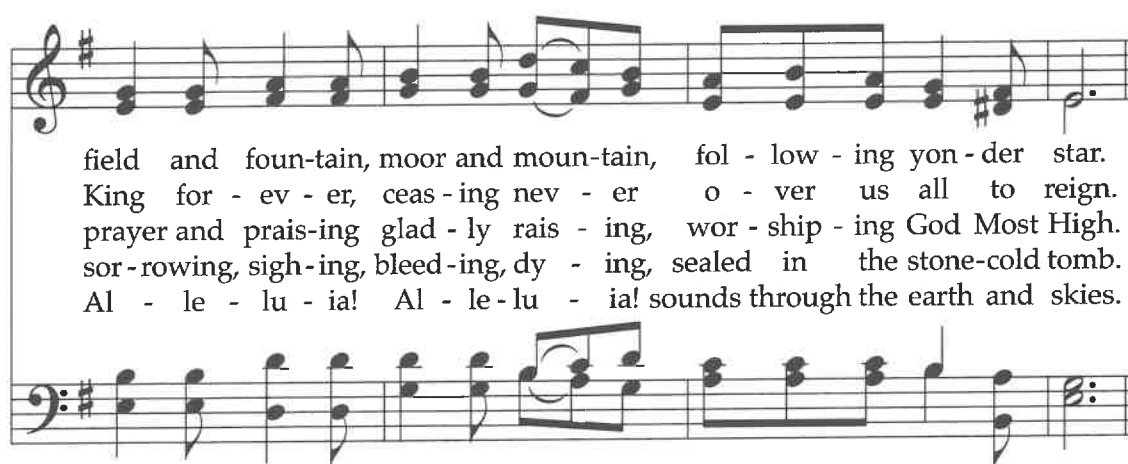
Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come

Postlude

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

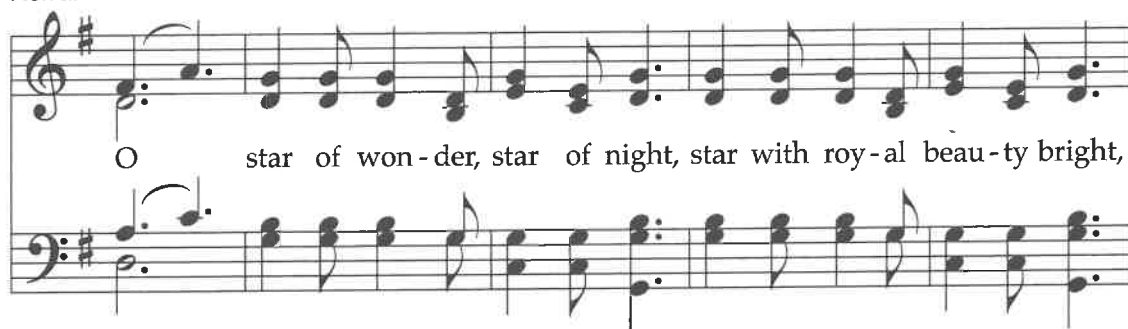


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath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

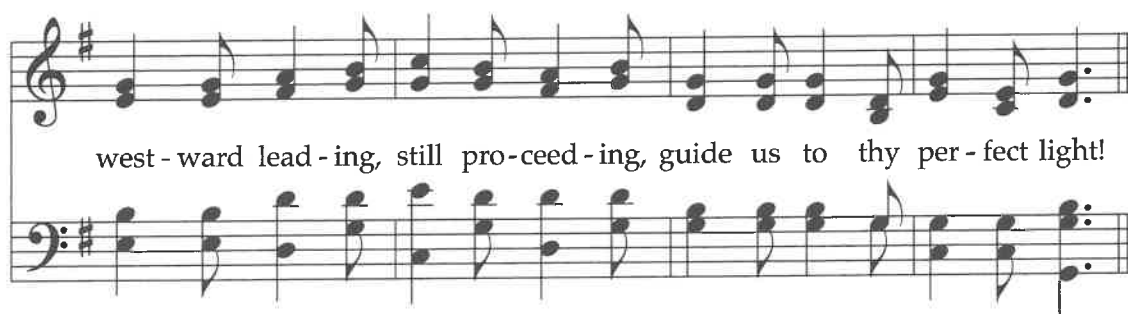


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.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

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

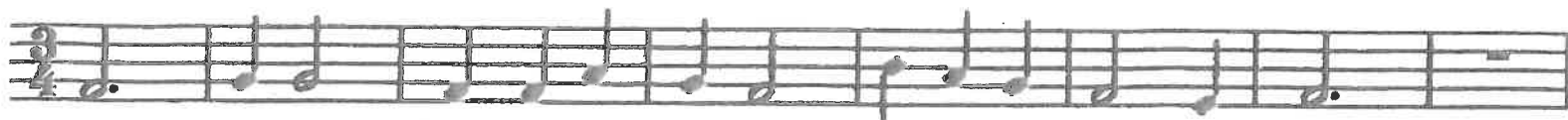
It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

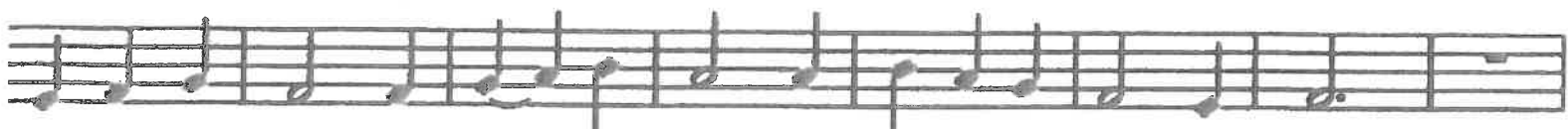
Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

The Lord's Prayer

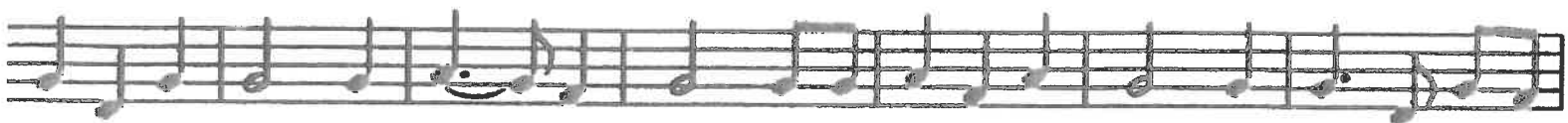
Arr. Christy Weir



Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en, Hal-low-ed be Thy name.



Thy king-dom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n.



Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for-give us our debts, as we for-give our



debt-ors, And lead us not in-to temp - ta-tion, but de - liv - er us from



e - vil; for thine is the king-dom, and the pow - er and the glo - ry, for -



ev - er and ev - er, a - men.

For - ev - er and ev - er, A - men.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain ♪ = ♪[♯]

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.