

Worship Leader Edition  
Epiphany Sunday

December 31, 2023

8:30 AM

---

GATHERING

---

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”  
*Lori Murray*

*Janet Linker*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}*

+OPENING HYMN

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”  
*John Henry Hopkins, Jr*

*Screen*

**Verse 1**

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

Prayer and praising,  
Gladly raising,  
Worshiping God most high.

**Refrain**

**Refrain**

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

**Verse 4**

Myrrh is mine;  
It's bitter perfume breathes  
A life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

**Refrain**

**Verse 2**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again;  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

**Verse 5**

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings Al-le-lu-ia:  
Al-le-lu-ia the earth replies

**Refrain**

**Verse 3**

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a deity nigh;

**Refrain**

+GREETING *{Front Center}* *(Angela Hansen)*

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*(Assistant may be seated if not cantoring)*

+KYRIE *(cantor and congregation)*

ELW pg. 147/*Screen*

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE (*cantor and congregation*) “Glory to God”

ELW pg. 148/*Screen*

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

L: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

---

---

## WORD

---

---

FIRST READING {*Lectern*} (*Al Buss*)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 151/*Screen*

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

+THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-15

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “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.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.’ 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rob Norris-Weber, Pastor

**Verse 1**

Bright and glorious is the sky,  
radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining.  
All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav’n above,  
beckon us to heav’n above.

**Verse 2**

On that holy Christmas night  
through the darkness beamed a light;  
all the stars above were paling,  
all their luster slowly failing  
as the wondrous star drew nigh,  
as the wondrous star drew nigh.

**Verse 4**

Him they found in Bethlehem,  
yet he worn no diadem;  
there they saw a maiden lowly  
with an infant pure and holy  
resting in her loving arms,  
resting in her loving arms.

**Verse 5**

Guided by the star, they found  
him whose praise the ages sound.  
We too have a star to guide us  
which forever will provide us  
with the light to find our Lord,  
with the light to find our Lord.

+THE APOSTLES’ CREED {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

*Screen*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will 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.**

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

*Screen*

*After each petition:*

L: Christ, our light,

**C: we pray to you.**

+THE LORD’S PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

*Screen*

**C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

L: For all who are gathered, let us take a moment to welcome those around us with a greeting. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

L: You may be seated. In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out your welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered the collection plates are in the front and back, and there is a QR code in the bulletin to give electronically. For those on-line please go to our website [stlukesbloomington.org](http://stlukesbloomington.org) there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

MUSIC

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”  
Lori Murray

*Thomas Keesecker*

---

SENDING

---

+BENEDICTION

L: May the eternal light of God guide you in the way of the peace, through the power of Holy Spirit now and forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

+SENDING HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**ELW #270**

**Verse 1**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**Verse 2**

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

**Refrain**

**Verse 3**

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.

**Refrain**

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*Angela Hansen*)

L: Let your light shine before others.

**C: Glory be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
*Lori Murray*

*Christopher Uehlein*