

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 2, 2022

Organ Prelude: Fugue on “As with gladness men of old”

Bruce Nasmtih

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.”
(Isaiah 60:6)

“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.” (Matthew 2:11)

We gather to worship because we want to open ourselves to the energy flow of Love who is God.

We gather to worship because we want to grow in our faith, our hope and our love as we engage the world around us.

We gather for worship because we want to connect what we believe with how we live, and we want to become inspired and empowered to live as we believe.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Hymn: “As with gladness men of old”

No. 172

1. 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
ever more be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, 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.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle 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.

4. 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 of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,

thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Special Music: God rest ye merry gentlemen

traditional English Carol

soloists Erin Stone & Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 60:1-6

⁶⁰ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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. Amen.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘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.” ’

⁷ Then 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. Amen.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: IS GOD A CHRISTIAN? Dr. Harris

Special Music: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness John Monsell

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: “We three kings” No. 173

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 light,
star of 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, voices raising,
worshipping 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:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: What star is this

Michael Praetorius

Thank you to Dr. Harris and Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Elias Theocharidis, and Chris Tanaka-Mann, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.

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