

Bethany Lutheran Church Worship Guide

Jan. 3, 2021

Christmas 2/Epiphany Week—Those Who Dream
...persevere

Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister – Mike Bagby

Director of Worship and Music--Ruth Ann Poppen

Soloist: Gary Bitter

AV – Maria Bruno, Ben Huffman, and Rob Huffman,

Sound – Jim Bradshaw

Online Greeter— Terry and Dian Micklevitz

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

POEM :Those Who Dream...persevere

Solo: Walk in the Light

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Magi had a dream.

They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

So may we be like the Magi,

May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 300 THE FIRST NOEL

The First Noel

1 The first Noel the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
 night that was so deep,
 tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star wher - ev - er it went.
 place where Je - sus lay,
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

GREETING

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

And also with you.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.

I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi.

I want to persevere. Guide my feet. Show me the stars.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ELW 301 Bright and Glorious
(Stanzas 1, 5, & 6)**

1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no

heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

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.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the Word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the Milky Way,
 We, like the Magi, are walking toward you.
 One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.
 It is our very prayer to move your way.
 So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.
 Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.
 And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,
 Give us the will to persevere.
 We are walking toward you, O God.
 So like the parent that throws open the door,
 Open the door to us through this time of worship. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth,
 and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the LORD will arise upon you,
 and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Carol: ELW 314 Arise, Your Light Has Come

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In

former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: We Three Kings (Stanza 1)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

646

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

far, field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low-ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais-ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor-ship-ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, 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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
 Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT
 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you O Lord.

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.’”

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Response: We Three Kings (Stanza 5)

EPIPHANY

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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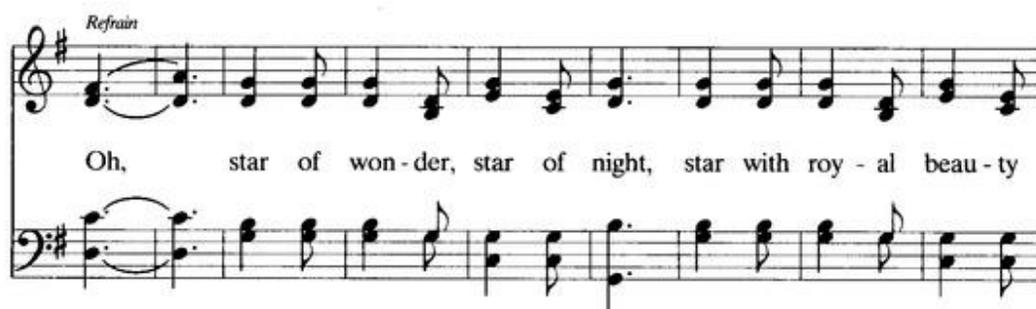


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank-in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious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

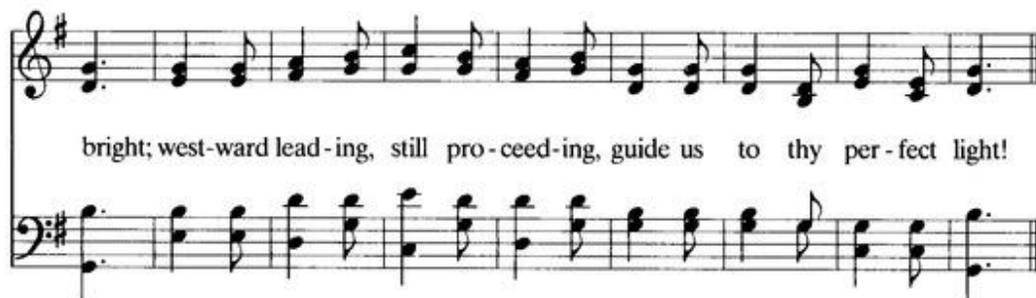


far, field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low-ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
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 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
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Refrain



Oh, 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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
 Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT
 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

SERMON - Pastor Paul Cannon

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 303 BRIGHTEST AND BEST



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the Whole Church let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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.**

STARLIGHT PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Please respond “Your mercy is great” after I say “Hear us O God.”

**God of starlight,
There has always been something holy about stars for us.
We wish on them.
We look for them.
There has always been something holy about stars.
The Magi must have known that.
So today we come to you in prayer, trusting that if you can
paint the stars in the sky,
Then surely you can hear us over the noise.**

So first we pray for people wishing on stars:
We pray for those for whom 2020 was a year full of hospital
rooms and isolation.
We pray for those who lost love in 2020.
We pray for those who lost life in 2020.
We pray for those who lost a job, a home, or a sense of hope in
2020.
We pray for parents forced to homeschool children in 2020,
And for children who missed their friends in 2020.

Hear us O God,
Your mercy is great.

We pray for the milestones canceled in 2020,
And for the breath that was stolen in 2020.
However, at the same time,

We also say a prayer of gratitude for all the stars you have left for us this last year—

The signs and mile markers of hope on the horizon.

For example, we could not have survived without the birthday parades and the sidewalk chalk.

And oh how we needed the slower schedule, and the family around dinner tables.

Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for the gifts of technology, backyard gardening, and sourdough bread.

We thank you for every variety of essential workers, from grocery store clerks and teachers, to internet technicians and doctors.

We thank you for the quiet that came with less cars on the road and less planes in the sky.

We thank you for protesters demanding justice and for leaders who refused to give up on a broken system.

Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great.

In so many ways, 2020 was a turbulent year, and in so many ways, you were there,

leaving stars in the sky, painting hope on the horizon.

So today, in this new year, we ask that once more you would give us a sign.

Pour out a double portion of your Spirit on your people as we consider your stars.

For like the Magi, we are seeking you.

Like the Magi, we are looking up.

Like the Magi, we just need a sign.

Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great.

Guide our feet. Show up in the mundane and the extraordinary.

Be in the stars in the sky and in our everyday lives. We are hopeful, O God. We are hopeful. Amen.

Children's Sermon – Pr. Paul

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

Offertory Music

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

you came to us as one unknown,

bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

Nourish us at your banquet table,

that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY (tune: As with Gladness)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
 God of hosts, by all adored
 Now draws nigh with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 With the heav'nly host we sing
 Praise to our eternal King.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Eucharistic Words

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ.

Through this mystery, send us forth
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

BLESSING

As you go, may you have the strength to dream wild dreams of
justice, and peace, and joy that overflows.

May you have the humanity to listen to the dreams of others.

May you have the confidence to trust that God hears your
dreams.

And, may you have the conviction to return to this space,
for our best dreams are those we dream together.

In the name of God, the original dreamer, Jesus the dream come
true, and the Holy Spirit who enables us to be those who dream.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 308 O MORNING STAR

(Stanzas 1, 2, & 6)



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
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SENDING

Go in peace. Go with joy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo

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