

January 2, 2022  
Second Sunday of Christmas

Prelude

Announcements

*All people must wear a facemask covering mouth and nose.*

God is Good  
**Everyday**  
And Everyday  
**God is Good**

Call to Worship

The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.  
**We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.**

The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.  
**The darkness that surrounds us is gone!**

Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

**Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.**

*The First Nowell* ~ No. 147

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the East, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued, both day and night. (*Refrain*)

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far,  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the Star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Bethlehem it took it's rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there, in his presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (*Refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.  
*(Refrain)*

#### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, 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 pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that God became incarnate in Christ. This morning we celebrate God becoming human and dwelling among us, to live like us, and to restore us as children of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

#### Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Savior was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. Guide us to be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### Children's Time

#### Prayers of the People

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### Presentation of the Offering

#### Doxology ~ No. 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him,  
all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of thanksgiving

Special Music ~ Rick Snyder

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read, your Word is proclaimed, and our hymns are sung, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

*Matthew 2:1-12* ~ New Revised Standard Version

<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: <sup>6</sup>‘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.

*John 1:1-15* ~ New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of God  
**The Word of Life**

Message

*In the Bleak Midwinter* ~ No. 144

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*We Three Kings of Orient Are* ~ No. 151

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!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (*Refrain*)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*Refrain*)

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* ~ No. 136

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain.*)

Benediction

Postlude

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