St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Epiphany Sunday Sunday, January 5, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: Words & Music to Hymns/Responses are included at the end of the bulletin.

Gathering Around the Word

Centering Meditation

"Behind the cloud the starlight lurks, through showers the sunbeams fall; for God, who loveth all his works, has left his Hope with all." ~ John Greenleaf Whittier

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: How did you get here?

All: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.
One: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.
All: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

One: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

All: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.

One: Tell me again. How did we get here?

All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

One: Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

All: Let us worship our gracious God.

Opening Hymn #145 What Child is This

Call to Confession

One: Friends, one of the gifts of confession is it allows us to begin again. For in this moment of prayer, we name our shortcomings and mistakes. We receive God's grace, and we start again. The slate is wiped clean. The prayer of confession is an act of beginning again and again and again. So join me in prayer. For even here, God is already doing something new. Let us begin again. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

All: God of new beginnings,

We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,

simply because others have been there before.

Sometimes this is holy and humble,

but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.

On those new-beginning days, O God,

give us the courage to follow your star.

Give us the courage to go home by another way.

Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.

For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone.

We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

Passing of Christ's Peace

One: The Peace of Christ always be with you.

All: And also with you.

Response #582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

One: God of starlight, we long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21 Pew Bible, p.586

Special Music The Three Drovers by William G. James & John Wheeler arr. Bill Miller Bill Miller, tenor; Jim Copeland, baritone; Joe Woodworth, bass

Sermon The Road Isn't Straight Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Matthew 2:1-12

Decree Control

Pew Bible, p.783-84

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

Second Reading

All: We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn. And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way. Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God's fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.

Hymn #152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Invitation to the Offering

One: How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love?

All: With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

Offertory Give Thanks arr. Larry Shackley

Response #717 For the Life That You Have Given

Prayer of Dedication

All: We bring our gifts, to the one who sets us free. Use our gifts; our talent, treasure, and time to work for the kin-dom and bring love to all people.

Sealing the Word

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Lord's Table

One: Let us lift up our hearts, and give thanks to God, for God is good...

All: God's love is everlasting.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: so we continue to sing your praises with all of the saints:

Sanctus #596 You Are Holy

One: ... As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

All: Loving God, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and 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.

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music I Wonder As I Wander John Jacob Niles, arr. Mark Hayes

I Want to Walk as a Child of Light arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer Following Communion

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Closing Hymn #135 There's a Star in the East

Matters of Community

Postlude O Come all Ye Faithful arr. Joel Raney

Charge and Benediction

Pastor: ...and let the people say:

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Resources: A Sanctified Art: https://sanctifiedart.org/words-for-the-beginning-advent-bundle

St. Andrew Staff

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

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Julie Taylor

Clerk of Session

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Worship Planning

Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Music

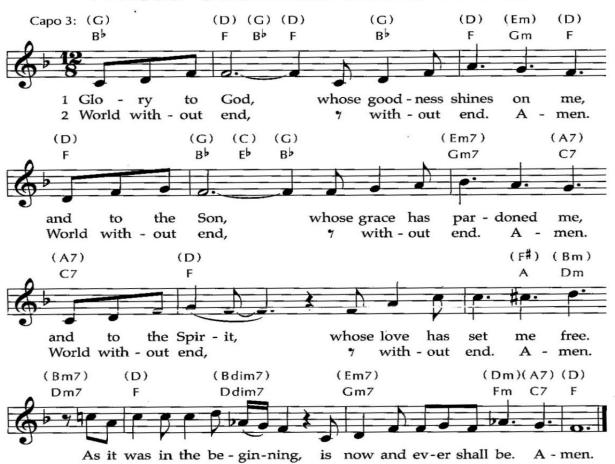
We Three Kings, arr. Larry Shackley, Hope Publishing, 2014.
I Saw Three Ships, arr. Chip Davis, Dots and Lines Ink., 1989.
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, arr. Chip Davis, Dots and Lines Ink., 1989.
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, arr. Larry Shackley, Lorenz Pub., 2020. Give
Thanks, arr. Larry Shackley, Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), 2020. I
Wonder As I Wander, by John Jacob Niles, arr. Mark Hayes, GlorySound,
1991. I Want to Walk as a Child of Light, arranged by Mark Hayes, Hope
Publishing, 1970. O Come all Ye Faithful, arr. Betty Colley, Neil A. Kjos Music
Co., 1983. The Three Drovers, William G. James & John Wheeler, arr. Bill
Miller.

All other hymns are in the public domain.
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This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me



What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152



This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

717 For the Life That You Have Given

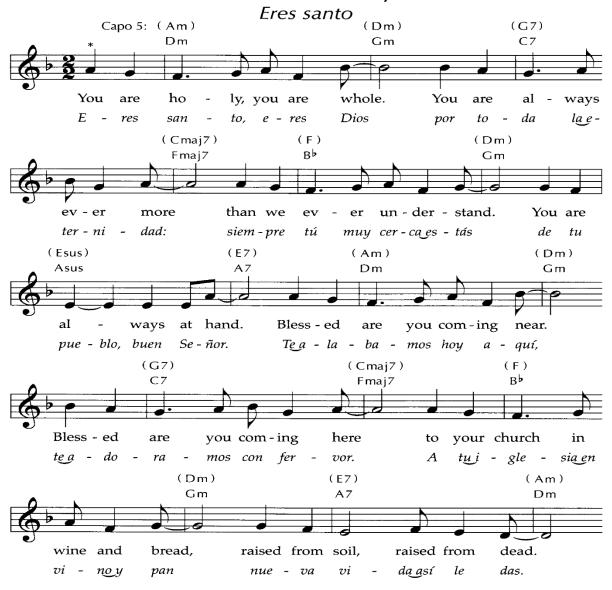


The text was commissioned in 1987 by Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where it has continued to be used each Sunday as the offertory response. The triune activity of God as Creator (line 1), Savior (line 2), and Sustainer (line 7) enables and inspires our thanks and praise.

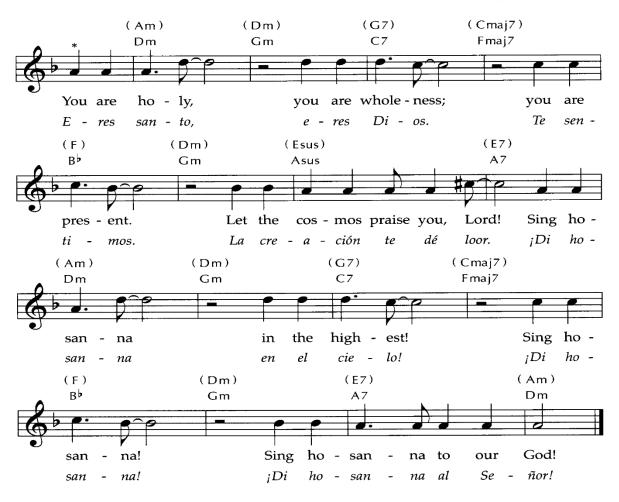
TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987 MUSIC: Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1830/31 Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D (alternate harmonization, 23)

596

You Are Holy



^{*}May be sung as a canon.





This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.