

Gilead Presbyterian Church
January 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL "March of the Kings" ("La Marche des Rois") French
Della Temple, flute arr. by D. Gilliam & M. McCaskill

OPENING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

People: The glory of the Lord will arise upon you, and appear over you.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around; see and be radiant; let your heart thrill and rejoice.

People: The abundance of the nations shall be brought to you; from far away they shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

**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 night, star with 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 gladly raising, worshiping God Most 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:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you sent a star to guide wise people to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE GLORIA, from "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. **People: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

"One Small Child"
Gilead Singers with Della Temple, flute

by David Meece

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

from a blog by Rev. Dianne Deming

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. ² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more... ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight. *Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14*

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

"Who Are the Wise Ones?"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

***PURPLE HYMNAL #152**

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

**1. What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**2. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.**

**3. While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"There's a Song in the Air"
Gilead Singers

by J. Holland & K. Harrington

***SONG OF PRAISE**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #150**

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

**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 evermore be led to thee.**

**2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, 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 manger, 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.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

"We 3 Kings"
Della Temple, flute

by John Hopkins
arr. by D. Gilliam & M. McCaskill

**Please stand, if you are able.*

*Thank you to our videographer today, Stephanie Gould,
and our Lay Reader Renae Lent.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Join us Wednesdays on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. for prayer and 7:30 p.m. for Bible Study. The link is in the weekly email.
- ▶ Today, Sunday January 8, Gilead Singers rehearse at 9:15.
- ▶ Sunday, January 15, Singers rehearse at 9:15.

† *We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.*

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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www.gileadchurch.org**



151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

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

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O 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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

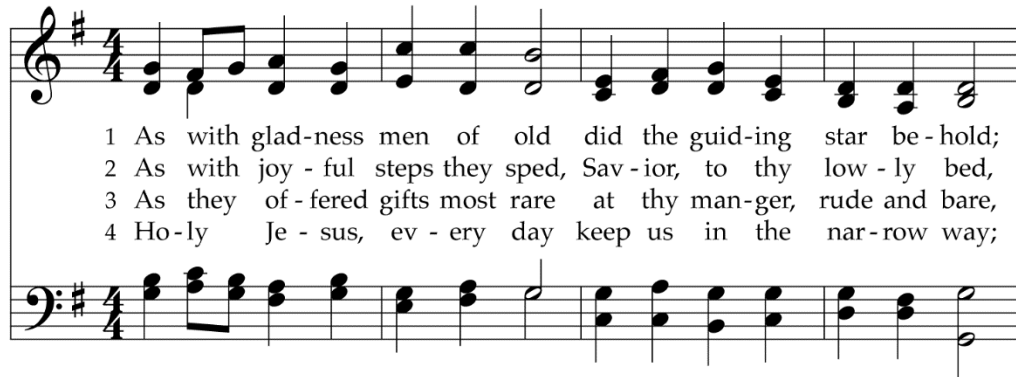
sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

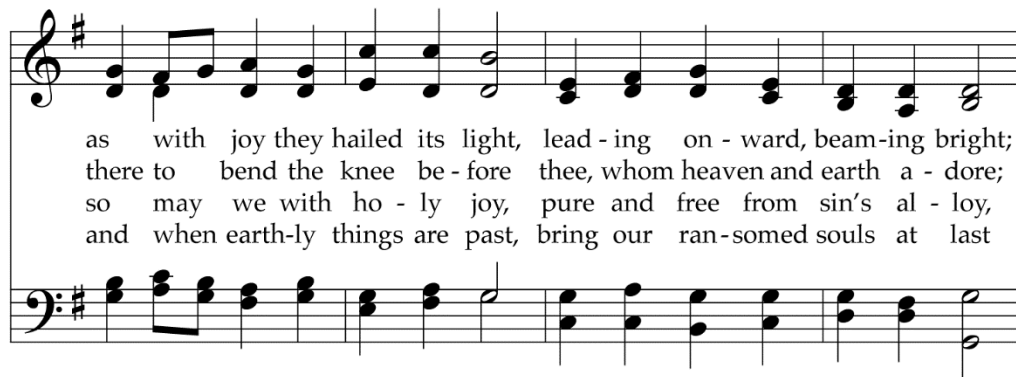
ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

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.

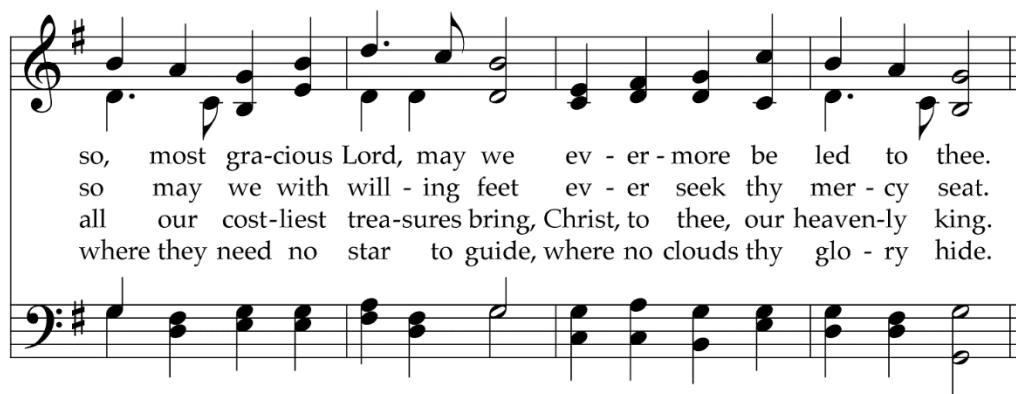
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.