

Presbyterian Church of  
Western Springs

Sunday, January 1, 2023 | 9:30 A.M.

Epiphany  
Second Sunday of Christmas  
From Generation to Generation:  
We Keep Seeking

# Worshipping Together



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## GATHERING TOGETHER IN GOD'S NAME

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Prelude

Christmas Medley  
*Ann Bourjaily-Maney, piano*

Gathering & Greeting

The Rev. Lesley Weir

Prayer of Transition

God of Peace, You are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us and our PNC. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that will lead us to our next pastor. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

♦ Call to Worship

Marcia Buell

*Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...*  
*Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...*  
*Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...*  
*Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.*  
God is here.

♦ Opening Hymn #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are (vs. 1-4)

KINGS OF ORIENT

♦ Call to Confession

*In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we find ourselves following the wrong star. Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace, so we have nothing to fear. Let us pray together. Let us seek God together. Join me in the prayer of confession:*

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♦ Indicates congregation standing, if able.

♦ Prayer of Confession

God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine.  
Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button.  
Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.  
We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.  
We have to believe that love really can change the world.  
We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.  
Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.  
We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

♦ Assurance of Pardon

*Friends, I have nothing but good news.  
Since the very first day, God has taken the pieces of our hearts that we have offered up and has said,  
"I can work with that."  
Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love.  
No matter what star you've followed, no matter how far you've walked,  
no matter how lost you got—you belong to God.  
God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you. End of story.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.*

♦ Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son; and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

♦ Passing of the Peace of Christ

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

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♦ Prayer for Illumination

Marcia Buell

First Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible, New Testament, pages 1-2

Children's Sermon & Lord's Prayer The Rev. Lesley Weir

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.

Second Scripture Lesson John 1:1-18 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 86

Sermon The Gift of Gifts The Rev. Lesley Weir

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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♦ Hymn of Response #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

Pastoral Prayer

Sharing our Gifts and Gratitudes

Offertory Meditation

Do You Hear What I Hear? Arr. by Regney/Shayne  
*Kate Kelly, soloist*

♦ Response of Faith

Giver of Life, help us to give thanks:  
for healthy bodies that can dance and move,  
for food on the table,  
for roofs over our heads,  
for the dreams of this community that hang as stars on the tree branches  
...help our seeker hearts give thanks.  
And when the clouds roll in, and we lose our way,  
when the star is out of sight and we feel far from your reach, remind us that you are near:  
In food pantries and on street corners,  
in lonely apartments with dinner for one,  
in empty refrigerators, in bad dreams, in hospital rooms,  
in the bottom of a empty bottle,  
and in the bottom of our faith...  
remind us that you are near.  
Push the clouds back to reveal the stars.  
Call forth our seeker hearts so that day after day  
like the Magi, we might be on the lookout for you.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

*People of Advent: the Lord be with you!*

And also with you!

*People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.*

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

*People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.*

We will sing our praises to the One

who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & Cup

*All are welcome to this, Christ's table, set for any who are hungry and thirsty. Today, our meal is shared at the Communion Table. You are invited to come forward via the center aisle, choose a piece of bread from the basket and a cup of juice, then return to your seat via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available in the small basket. Prepackaged elements are available in the silver dish, if you prefer. If you prefer to be served in your seat, please let an usher know by raising your hand. **This Sunday, you are invited to pick a Star Word from the basket on the communion table. Use this word to guide you in the coming year. Know that the Spirit has chosen your word for you before you have chosen!***

Song During Communion

Take and Eat  
Kate Kelly, soloist

Unison Communion Prayer of Thanks

We have seen the light of the world. We have been called to follow the star of promise. We have been fed at this table of mystery to bring the light to all the dark places in our community and our world. For all of these gifts, we say thank you. Amen.

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

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♦ Sending Hymn #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

♦ Charge and Benediction

*As you leave this place, may you go knowing that  
From generation to generation,  
We have been claimed and loved.  
From generation to generation,  
God has been by our side.  
From generation to generation,  
We are not alone.  
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow  
Knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,  
Saying "Go be the person you are called to be,  
Love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."  
May it be so. Amen.*

Postlude

Auld Lang Syne  
*Ann Bourjaily-Maney, piano*

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*The nursery is available with Ms. Shaquirra!*

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## 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.

## Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B-flat4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a dotted quarter note on D5, followed by quarter notes on E5, F5, and G5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system features a dotted quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B-flat4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a dotted quarter note on D5, followed by quarter notes on E5, F5, and G5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,


*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

## 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

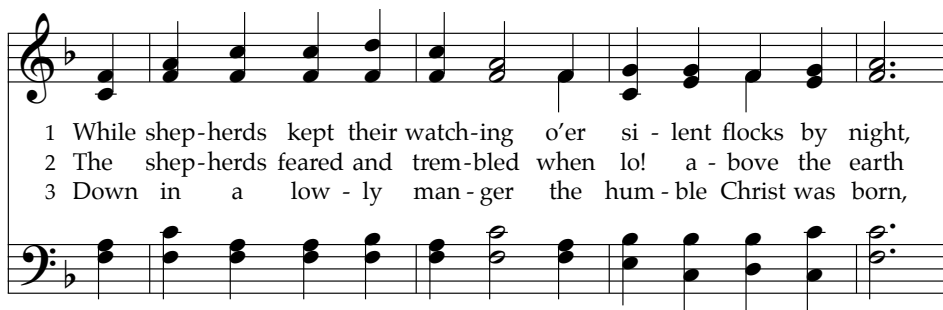
Refrain 


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

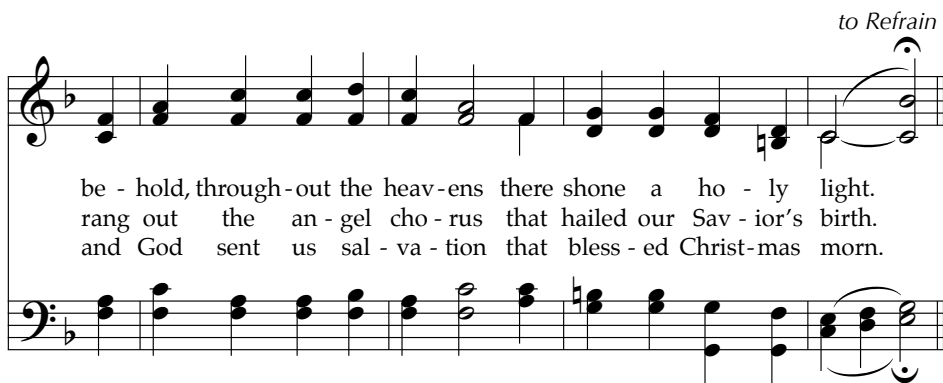


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*to Refrain*

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.