

**Order for the Public Worship of God**  
**January 3, 2021**  
**2nd Sunday of Christmas**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“What Child Is This?”

John A. Behnke

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

“In Joyful Thanksgiving”

George P. Tingley

*In joyful thanksgiving, O God, we assemble  
To sing of your goodness as year turns to year.  
We gather confessing your grace and your blessing,  
With thanks for the story that gathers us here.*

*What, then, can we give you in praise for our journey,  
When all the earth's treasures were yours from the start?  
We offer our labor, our love for our neighbor,  
Our gifts and the worship of each loving heart.*

--Ruth Duck, Words and music © 2015 Hope Publishing Co.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN #151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

*(refrain after stanzas 1 and 5 only)*

**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!**

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

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God most high.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Almighty and loving God, You do not change with the changing years, but we are creatures of time. As we look back at the road we have traveled, we give thanks for Your faithful mercies along the way. Where the road has been dark, You have not failed us though we have often failed You. Forgive us we pray. You are our guide and our goal, our strength and our stay. In this new year, may we trust in You and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways may we acknowledge You, confidentially trusting that You will lead us on our life's journey in faith, hope and love. In Jesus' name and for his sake we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.**

### APOSTLES' CREED *(Together)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### SOLO

“Star-Led and Wonder Bound”

Mary Kay Beall

Barbara Jordan, Soloist

*You don't have to be a king to worship him. You don't have to be a king to follow the star.  
You don't have to be a king to worship him; just come as you are. You can be*

*Star-led and wonder bound, led by a star's light to Bethlehem town,  
Bound for the wonder that waits to be found, star-led and wonder bound.*

*You don't have to travel far to welcome him. You don't have to travel far to look on his face.  
You don't have to travel far to welcome him. He's here, here in this place. Come and be*

*You don't have to bring a gift to honor him. You don't have to bring a gift of silver or gold.  
You don't have to bring a gift to honor him, just come, come and behold. Come and be*

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### HYMN #150

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

### WE GROW IN THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

### SERMON

“An Epiphany of Hope and Meaning for the New Year”  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF  
THE CUP; THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*(Please plan to celebrate communion during this livestream service by preparing a small portion of  
juice—or something to drink—and bread for your use at home.)*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

HYMN #145

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

**What child id this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing,  
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

BENEDICTION

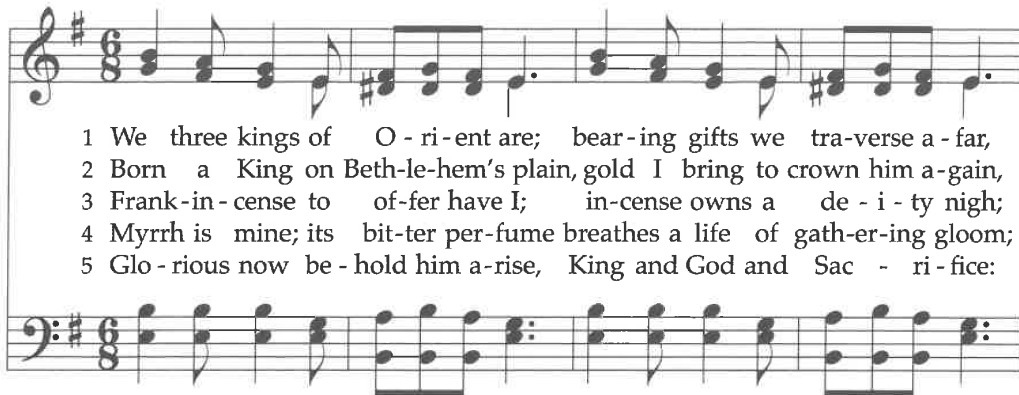
CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Fanfare Toccata on DIX”

David Lasky

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

# 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

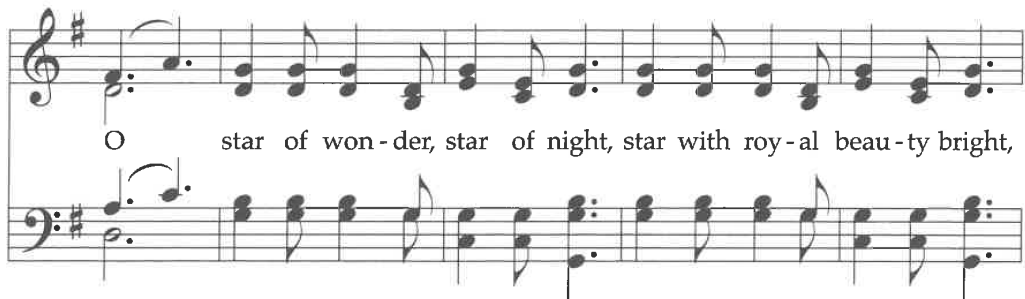


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life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

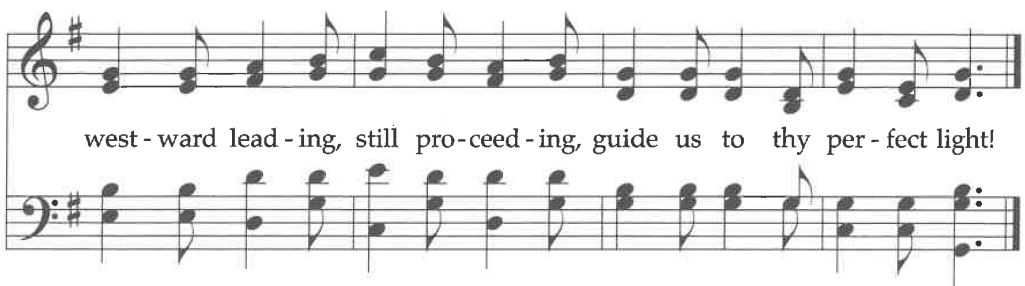


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold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

## Refrain



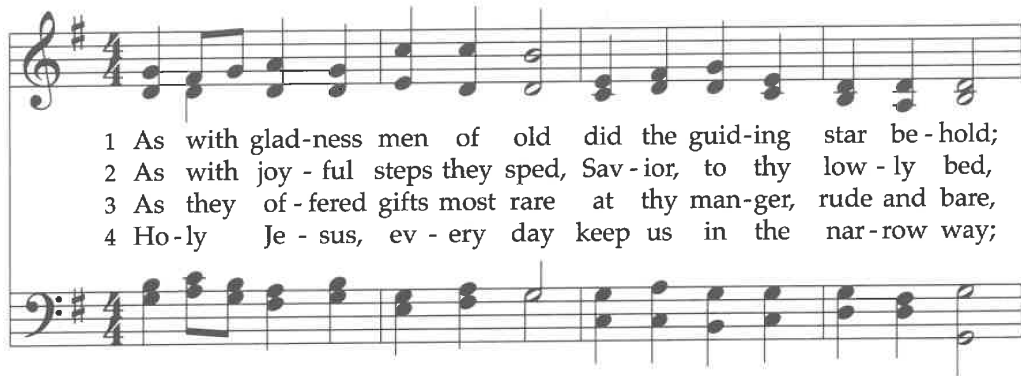
O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



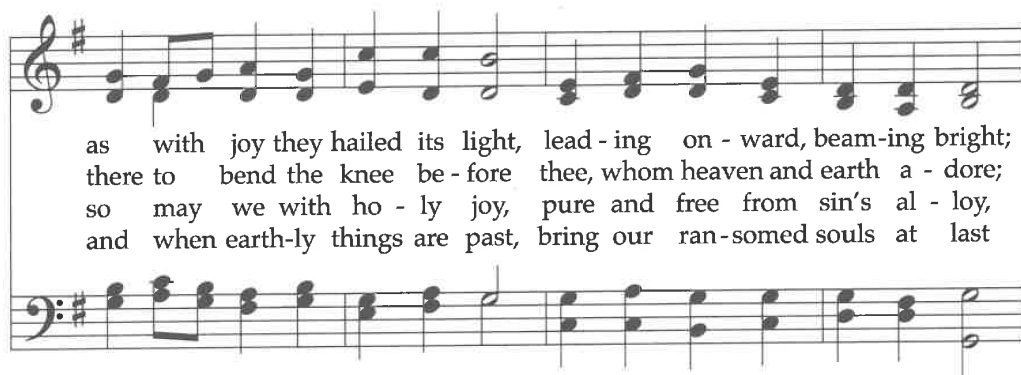
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

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.

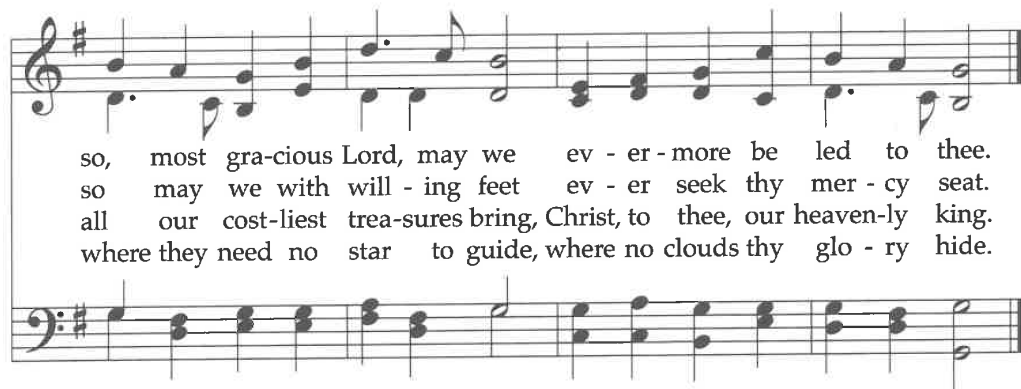
## As with Gladness Men of Old 150



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

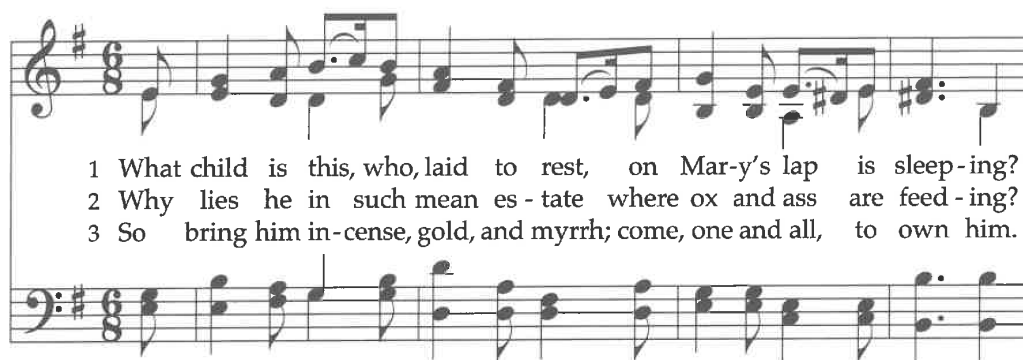


so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

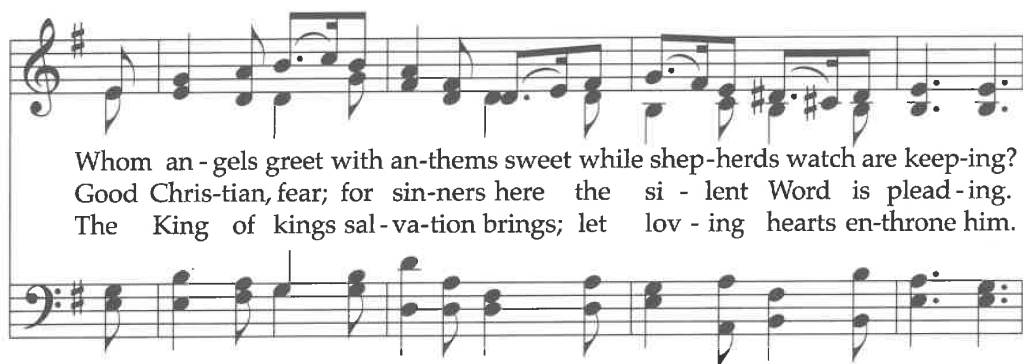
The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

## 145

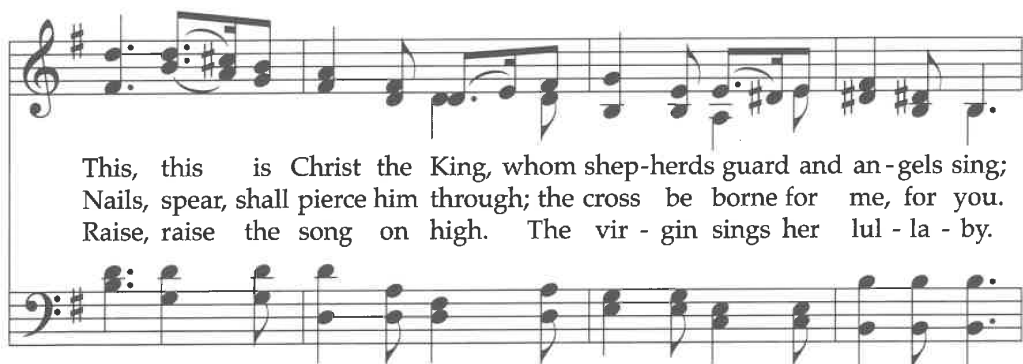
## What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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.