

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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The Epiphany of the Lord

Communion Sunday

January 5, 2025

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Trish Conover, Music Director

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Johann Christian Heinrich Rick

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dana Winslow

- A warm welcome to Rev. Diane Fitch!
- If you would like to serve as a lay leader in February, please let Jessica Stehr know

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP(One, Many)

Let us kneel in the darkness,

Until we see God's light emerge.

Let us wait with hope filled hearts,

As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.

Let him speak to us and teach us love,

Until we open our hearts to be his home.

***HYMN #152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright?**

PUES NOBIS NASCITUR

**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.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
And lo! the eastern sages stand
To read in heav'n the Lord's command.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek thy face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of thy light to use.**

**To God the Father, heav'nly Light,
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Spirit raise
An endless song of thankful praise!**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (One, Many)

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.

**We have entered the season
in which Your Light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on the world,
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,
our own needs, our own desires.**

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Help us to desire you, Lord.

Help us to yearn for your presence.

Cleanse us from our self-pity and arrogance.

Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

Remove from us our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors
that stand in the way of our truly being
the people you have called us to be.

**Let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and resurrection of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

We pause for a moment of silent personal confession.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity.

Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN #582:

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

World without end, without end. Amen.

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without
end. Amen.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

Chorus:

**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.**

Chorus:

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Chorus:

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin to give online

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Beneath His Father's Heaven by Ty Lacey and Dwight Liles

**Michael Pugh,
soloist**

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THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

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Invitation

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Responsive Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Bright Star, Holy One
Hear our prayer.

Bright Star, Holy One
Be with those who suffer
struggle, cry out, weep
are in pain of heart
or soul or mind

**From the darkness
may the glory of God arise!**

Bright Star, Holy One

• Fill the hearts of
leaders, nations, cities and
faith communities
with wisdom and grace.

May the glory of God arise!

Bright Star, Holy One

Lead our leaders in
your way, your hope
your love and your peace.

**Enlighten the pathways
with the Glory of God, arise!**

Bright Star, Holy One
laugh with those who
laugh this day, lift up our joys.

Our hope is found in You.

May the Glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One
help us in all we do, and say, and are
to be your love shining forth –

may the glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One,
hear our prayer. Amen.

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #166

We Three Kings

KINGSFOLD

**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 light,
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:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

.
**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

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

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

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

**Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

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EPIPHANY BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings

David Lasky

Worship Notes:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>

The **Prayer of Confession** and **Assurance of Pardon** are posted on the *Worship Connection* page of the **Ministry Matters** website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/article/entry/4549/worship-connection-january-12-2014>

The Prayer of Illumination is written by Rev. Mindi and posted on her **Rev-o-ution** blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

The **Pastoral Prayer** is written by Terri and posted on **RevGalBlogPal's A Place for Prayer**. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

The **Epiphany Blessing** is from Education for Justice at www.educationforjustice.org. Adapted by J.M. Deren from "Blessings and Benedictions," by W.L. Wallace in *Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*, CAFOD, 2004. Posted on Marianist Social Justice Collaborative website.

<http://www.msjc.net/>

Hymns are from *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration*, WORD Music, Waco, TX and the *Glory to God Hymnal*, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017.

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