

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Epiphany

January 9, 2022

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

We Three Kings

ARR WOLAVER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Outreach Committee, Monday (1/10) at 1 PM on ZOOM.
- Facilities Committee, Monday (1/10) at 7 PM on ZOOM.
- Worship Committee, Tuesday (1/11) at 7 PM on ZOOM.
- Session Budget Meeting, Saturday (1/15) at 8:45 AM.
- Annual Reports are due January 16th and will be made available for review on January 23rd.
- Our next Drive-Thru Food Drive is Monday, January 17th (MLK Day) from 10 am - 12 pm.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let us kneel in the darkness,

MANY: Until we see God's light emerge.

ONE: Let us wait with hope filled hearts,

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

ONE: Let him speak to us and teach us love,

MANY: Until we open our hearts to be his home.

HYMN

There's a Star in the East

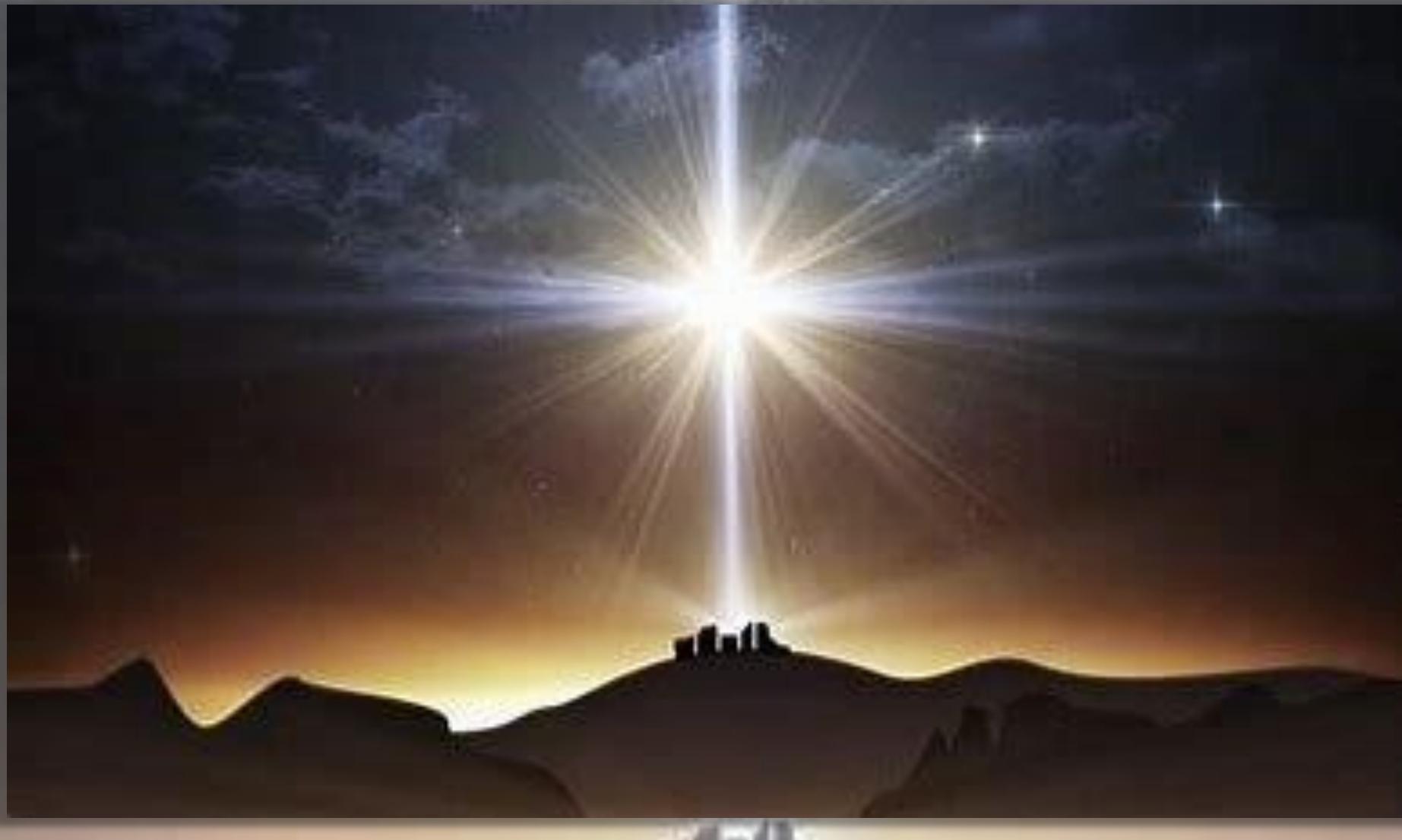
FOLLOW



**There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**



**It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**



**Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**



If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.



**You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**



**Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

(We pause for a moment of silent personal confession).

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ONE: 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.*

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Home by Another Way

Rev. Judith A Dwyer

SERMON HYMN

We Three Kings

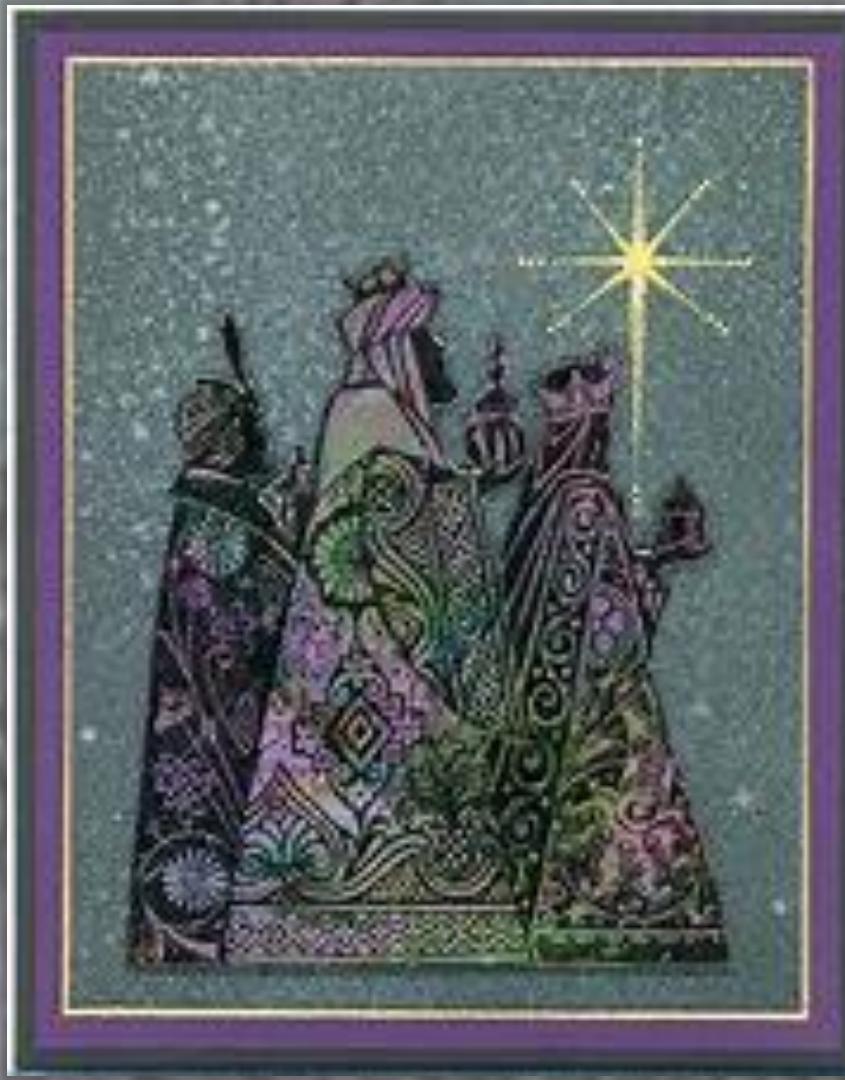
KINGSFOLD



We three kings of Orient are:
Bearing gifts we traverse afar—



Field and fountain, moor and mountain—
Following yonder star.



O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,



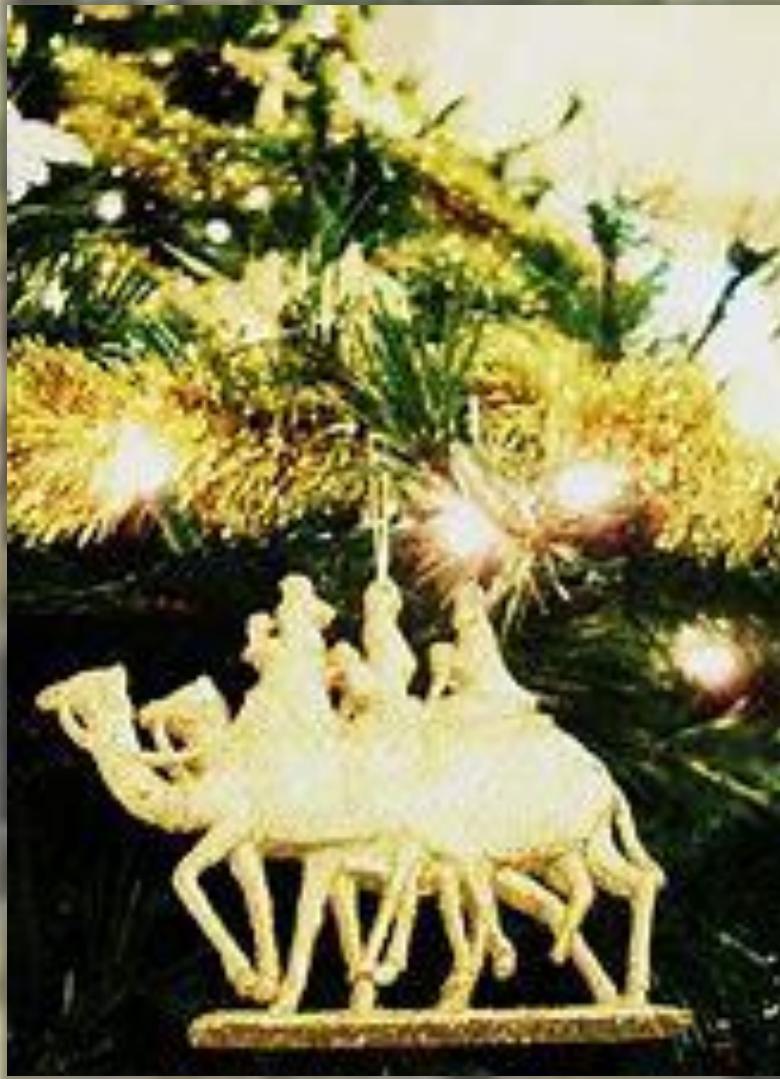
**Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**



**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain:
Gold I bring to crown Him again,**



**King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.**



O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,



**Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**



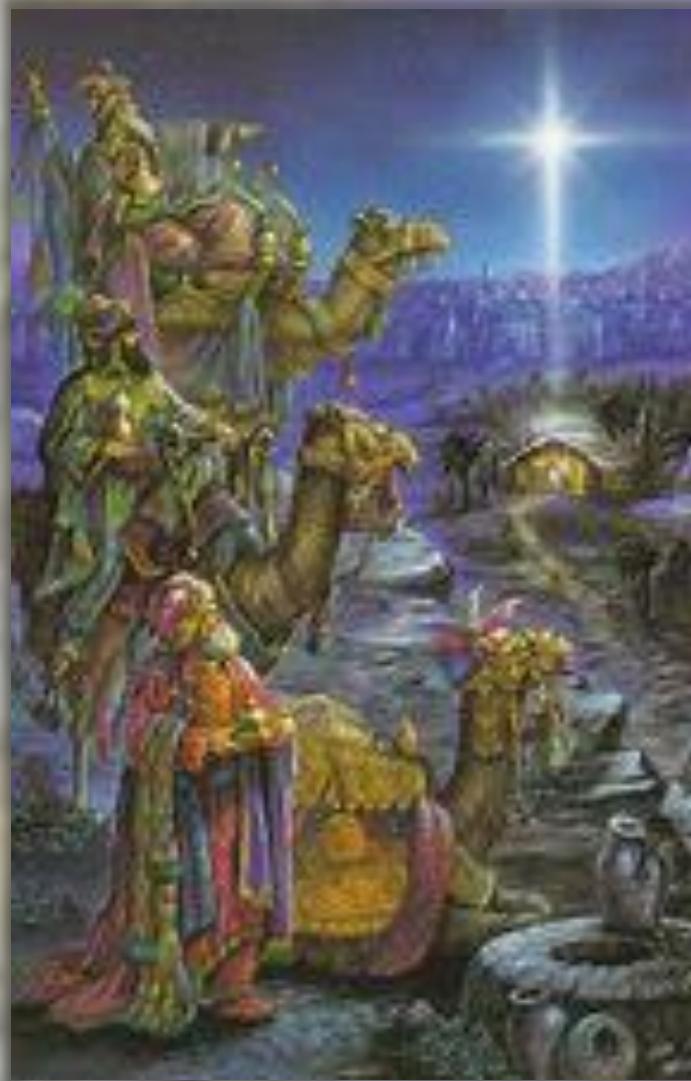
**Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;**



**Alleluia, Alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies.**



O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,



**Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

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 heaven the Lord's command.



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.**



O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek your face,



Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of your light to use.

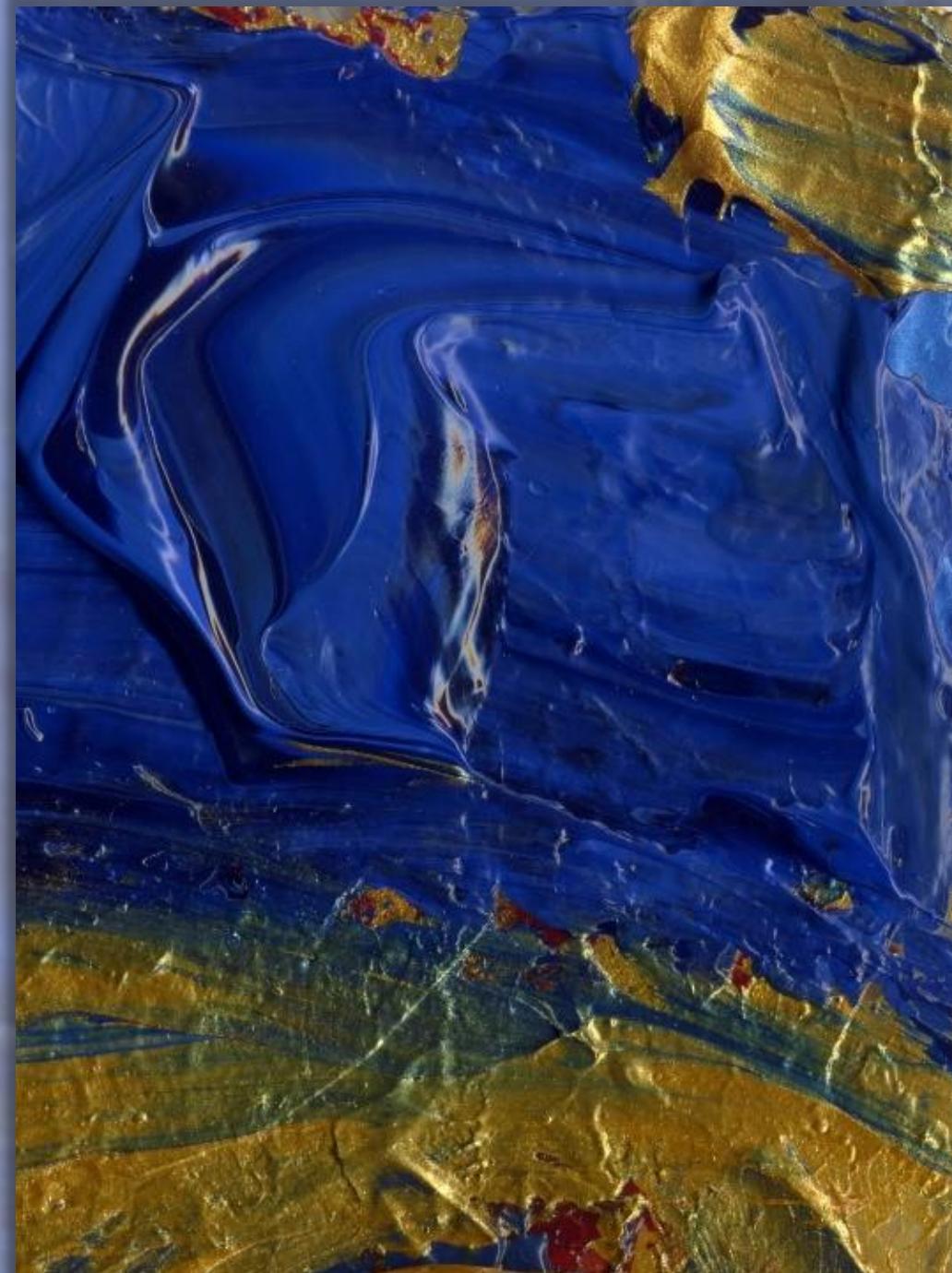
CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Blessing of the Magi

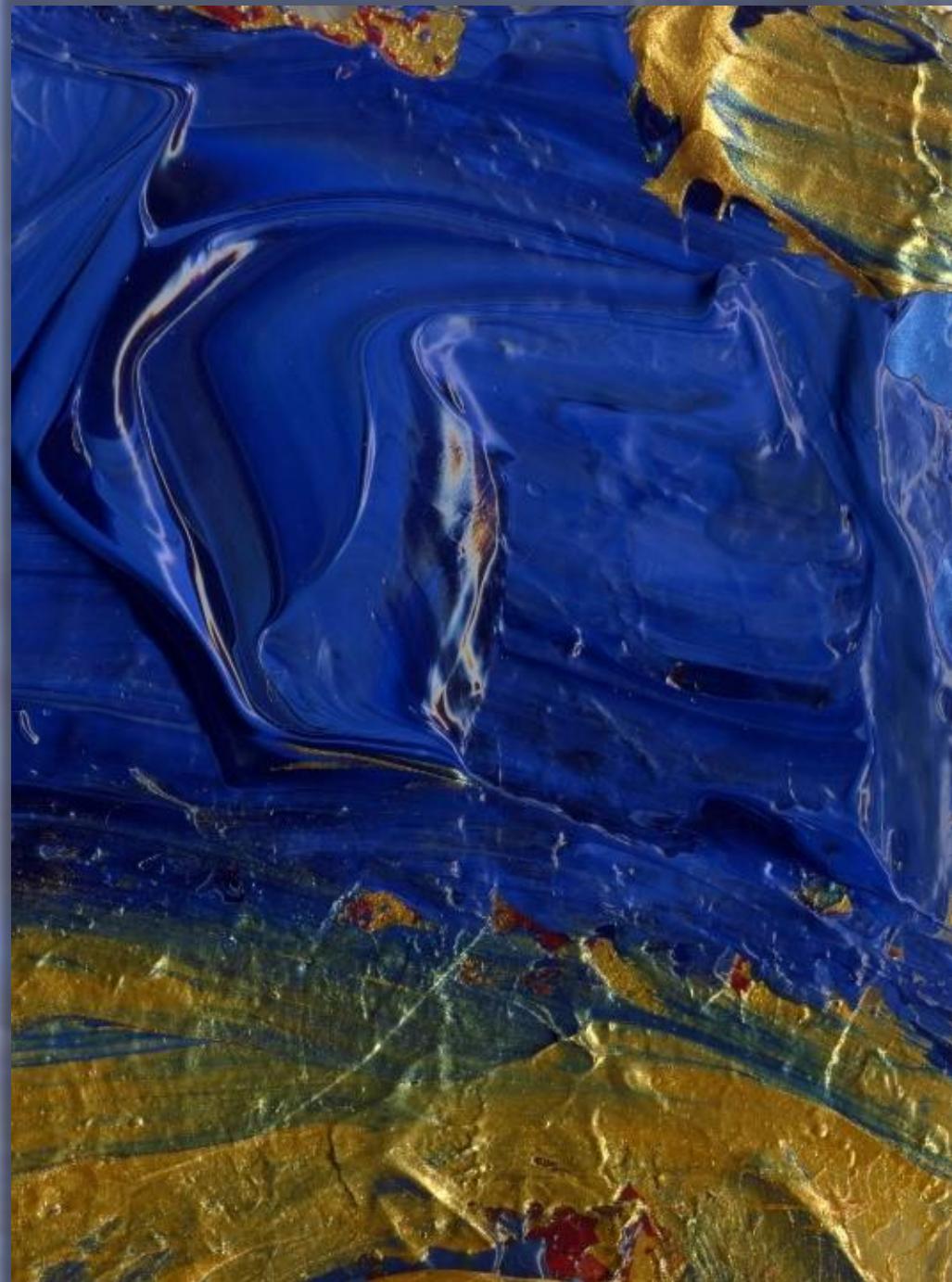
BY JAN RICHARDSON

There is no reversing
this road.

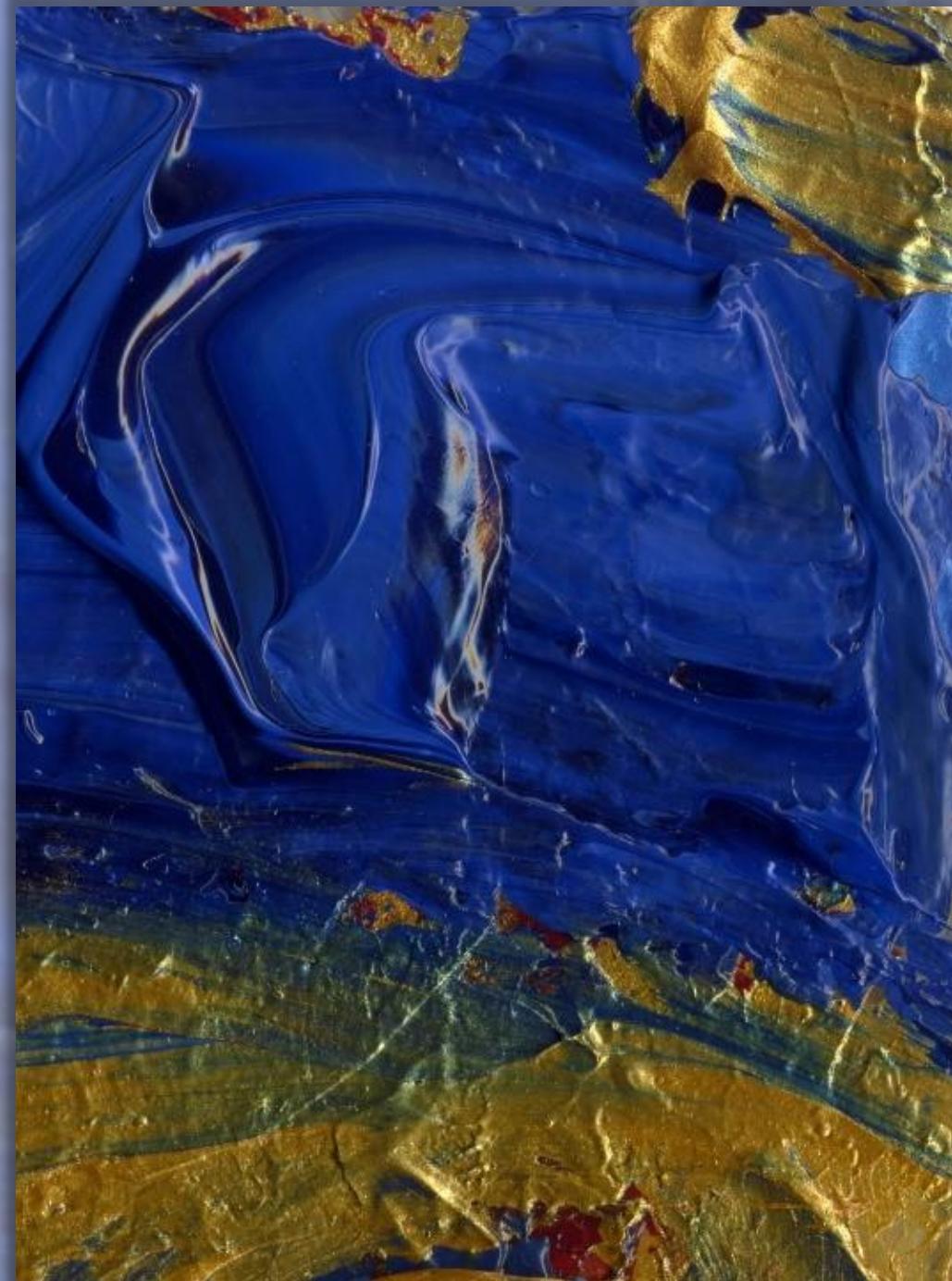
The path that bore you here
goes in one direction only,
every step drawing you
down a way
by which you will not
return.



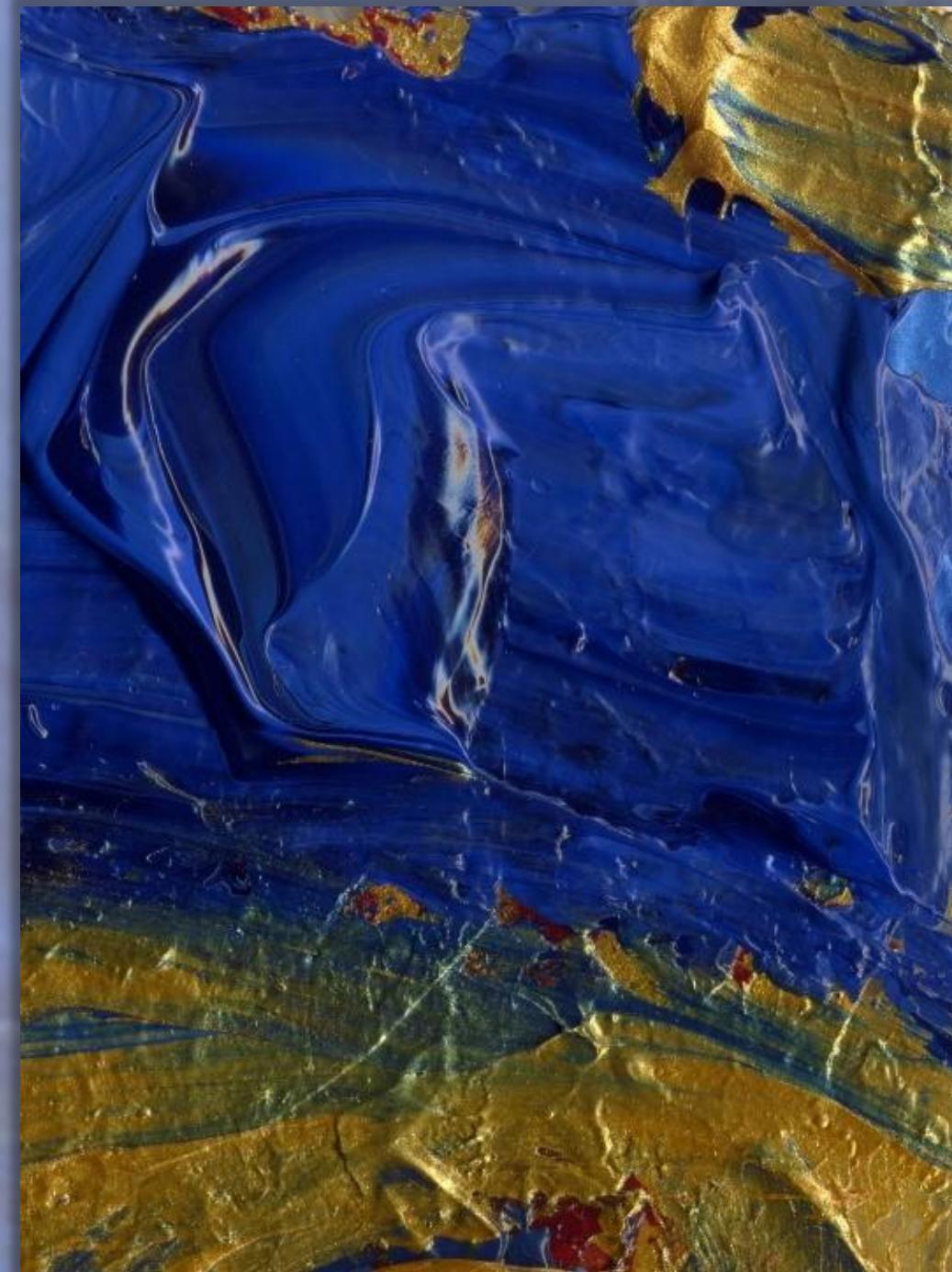
You thought arrival
was everything,
that your entire journey
ended with kneeling
in the place
you had spent all
to find.
When you laid down
your gift,
release came with such ease,
your treasure tumbling
from your hands
in awe and
benediction.



Now the knowledge
of your leaving
comes like a stone laid
over your heart,
the familiar path closed
and not even the solace
of a star
to guide your way.
You will set out in fear.
You will set out in dream.
But you will set out
by that other road
that lies in shadow
and in dark.



We cannot show you
the route that will
take you home;
that way is yours
and will be found
in the walking.
But we tell you,
you will wonder
at how the light you thought
you had left behind
goes with you,
spilling from
your empty hands,
shimmering beneath



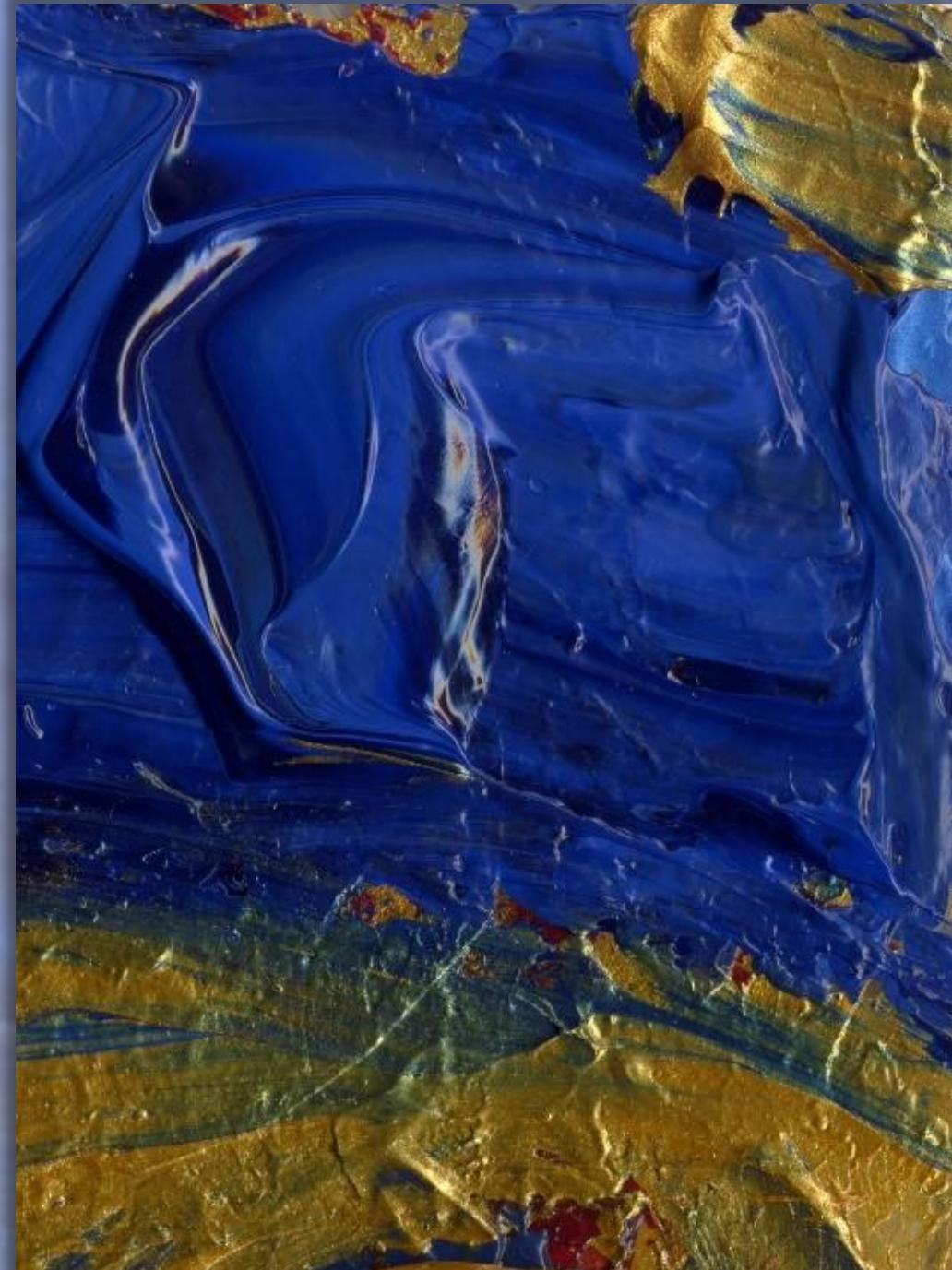
your homeward feet,
illuminating the road
with every step
you take.

~ Poetry and artwork: *By Another Road*
© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ARR WOLAYER



MINUTE FOR MISSIONS:

The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings are designated to support the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church (website: www.mpcusa.org/food-center), as well as non-perishable food donations.

Our church is committed to meeting the physical needs of our community through a strong partnership with the Food Center. We have responded to the increasing rates of those needing food assistance during the pandemic with quarterly food drives, benefiting those in the Lower Bucks County and Trenton, NJ areas.

In addition to the quarterly food drives being held at Northampton Presbyterian Church for delivery to the Food Center, a table and basket are available in our narthex. Please drop off your non-perishable donations any Sunday when you are attending worship. All items are welcome, but if you would like suggested items to purchase, these are some: canned beans, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat entrée (stew, chili),

canned soup, canned tuna fish, cereal, macaroni and cheese in box, milk (evaporated or shelf stable), pasta, peanut butter or jelly in plastic jar, rice, spaghetti sauce in plastic jar.

The mission of the Food Center is to provide supplemental food assistance to food-insecure families in Lower Bucks County and the greater Trenton area in a caring and respectful manner. They have been doing this since 1997. Any individual or family residing in this service area may visit the Food Center for assistance. The Food Center is entirely volunteer operated and is dependent on donations of food and money from the community. Based on family size, clients receive a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, dairy products, bakery items, personal care items and household items, as well as diapers and pet food.

“Ways to Help the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church” – Our next Drive-Thru Food Drive is **Monday, January 17th** from 10 am to noon.

“Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him,” Proverbs 14:31.

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** is written by Rev. Mindi and posted on her Rev-o-lution website. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

The **Assurance of Pardon** is 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 Dedication** was written by Thomas Turner, and posted on Everyday Liturgy. <http://everydayliturgy.com/prayer-for-epiphany/>

The **Pastoral Prayer for Epiphany** is written by Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933), in Prayers for a Privileged People (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008), p. 163. Posted on Journey with Jesus. <http://www.journeywithjesus.net>.

The artwork and the **Blessing** are by Jan Richardson and appears in her book, [Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons](#). Artwork: *By Another Road* © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.



**Please visit us at
www.northhamptonpresby.com**