

CHRIST
CHURCH

January 8, 2023

Prelude

As with Gladness, Men of Old piano
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Throughout the service, especially during the songs, you're invited to switch on candles as a visual reminder of the Bethlehem Star that led the Magi to Christ.

Silent Meditation Numbers 24:15b-17

“The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,
the oracle of him who hears the words of God,
and knows the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
falling down with his eyes uncovered:
I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near:
a star shall come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...”

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to worship

Isaiah 60:1-9

Elder Bryan Burke

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

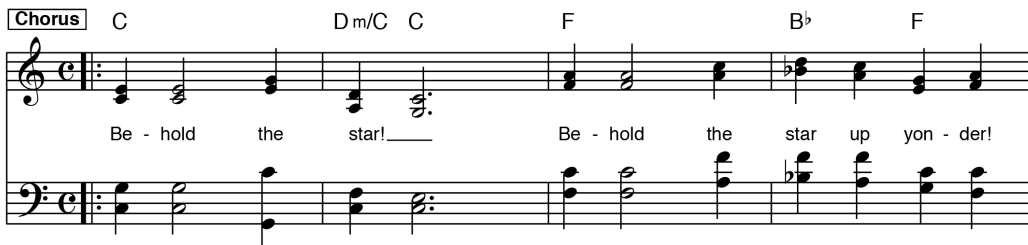
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

Who are these that fly like a cloud,
and like doves to their windows?
For the coastlands shall hope for me,
the ships of Tarshish first,
to bring your children from afar,
their silver and gold with them,
for the name of the Lord your God,
and for the Holy One of Israel,
because he has made you beautiful.

* Angels from the Realms of Glory Trinity Hymnal 218

* Behold the Star

Chorus C Dm/C C F B \flat F



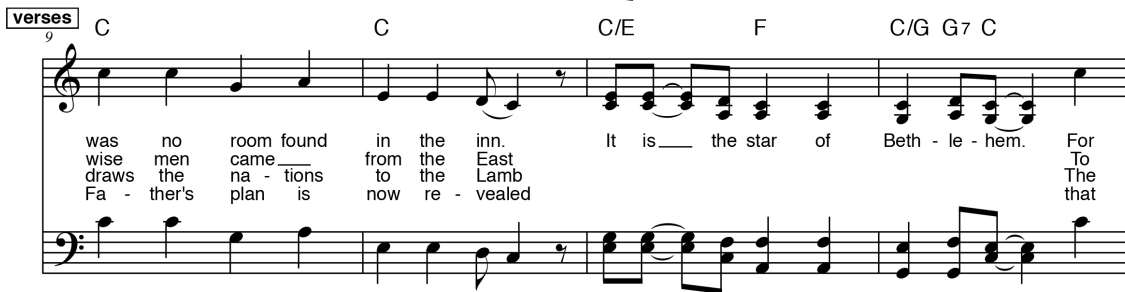
Be - hold the star! Be - hold the star up yon - der!

5 C F7 C/E F C/G G7 C



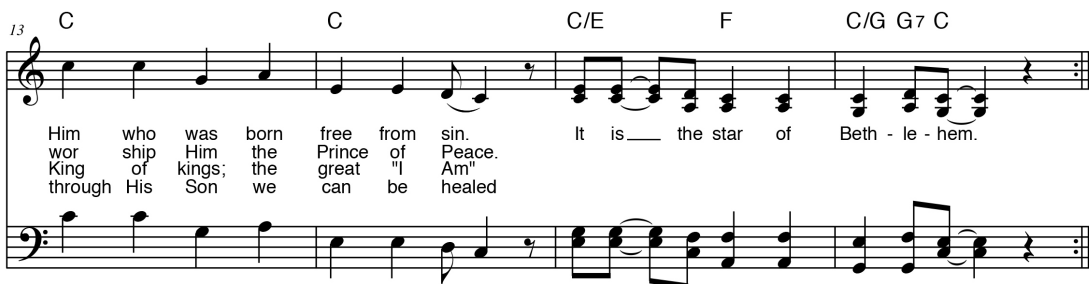
Be - hold the star! It is the star of Beth - le - hem. 1. There
2. The
3. It
4. The

verses C C C/E F C/G G7 C



was no room found in the inn. It is the star of Beth - le - hem. For
wise men came from the East. To that
Fa - ther's plan is now re - vealed. The

13 C C C/E F C/G G7 C



Him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Beth - le - hem.
wor - ship Him the Prince of Peace.
King of kings; the great "I Am" healed
through His Son we can be healed

* **Invocation** concluding with the following prayer, spoken together

**God of Advent, of waiting and hoping,
Keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.**

**God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing,
Make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.**

**God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known,
Fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory
That we have seen in Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

On Epiphany Sunday we often hear a testimony of how the glory of Christ has been present in the life of a member of the church. This year we all will have time to consider our own Epiphany testimony. We'll start with spending some moments at this point, thinking about our longings. They can point to places where the blessing of the glory of Christ is most desired and most present.

Call to confession Psalm 38:9

O Lord, all my longing is before you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.

Using the paper provided, write down what come to mind this morning as your longings. They are signposts to your deep needs found in Christ.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

8:30 service *During the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

11:15 service *Church bags are available in the foyer.*

* *Star in the East*

text, Reginald Heber
music, Joshua Leavitt's *The Christian Lyre*, 1831



1. Hail bles - sed morn, see the great Me - di - a - tor
2. Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
3. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,
4. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops were shin - ing;



down from the re - gions of glo - ry des - cend.
fra - grance of E - dom and off - rings di - vine?
vain - ly with gifts would his fav - or se - cure.
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.



Shep - herds, go wor - ship the babe in a man - ger.
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion,
An - gels a - dore him, in slum - bers re - clin - ing;



Lo, for a guard the bright an - gels at - tend.
myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
wise men and shep - herds be - fore him do fall.

Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing,

The first line of musical notation is in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with a dotted quarter note on 'sons' and a half note on 'of'. Chords are Gm, Dm, F, and Gm.

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody. It features a dotted quarter note on 'lend' and a half note on 'us'. Chords are Cm, Dm, C, and Dm.

Star in the East, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

The third line of musical notation continues the melody. It features a dotted quarter note on 'Star' and a half note on 'a - dorn'. Chords are Gm, Cm, Bb, and Dm.

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

The fourth line of musical notation concludes the phrase. It features a dotted quarter note on 'in - fant' and a half note on 'was'. Chords are Cm, Dm, Gm/D, Dm, and Gm.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Matthew 2:1-18

^{2:1} After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon God Can Find you Anywhere

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Who are the Magi? What were they looking for?

What did it mean for them to come?

What was the result?

Further discussion/questions? andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

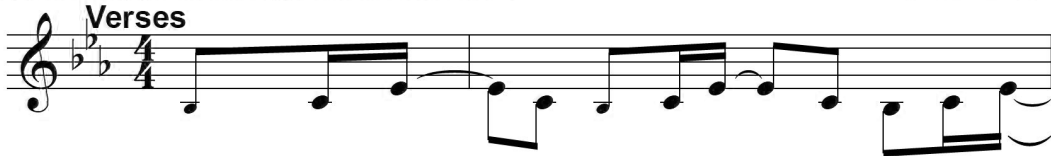
DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

Epiphany Testimony personal writing time

* *His Kingdom Now Is Come (Behold! Behold!)*

Men begin. Women echo. Sing each verse twice.

Porter's Gate

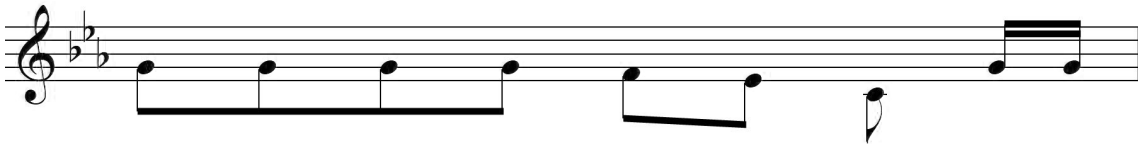


Verses

1. The light ___ shines___ (*the light shines*) in the dark-
2. The val - leys___ (*the val - leys*) will be lift -
3. Hear the voice___ cry (*hear the voice cry*) from the high-

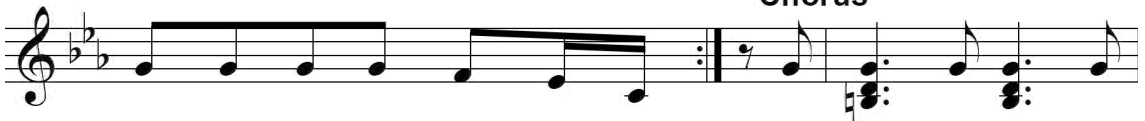


- ness___ (*in the dark - ness*) and the
- ed___ (*will be lift - ed*) and the
- way, (*from the high - way*) 7



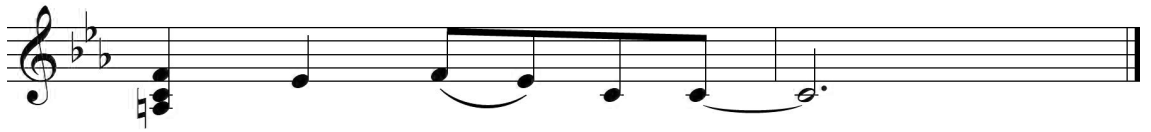
dark - ness has not ov - er - come (*and the*
moun - tains will be brought down low. (*and the*
"Make way for the Prince of Peace!" (*"Won't you*

Chorus



dark - ness has not ov - er come)
moun - tains will be brought down low)
make way for the Prince of Peace!")

Be - hold! Be-hold! His

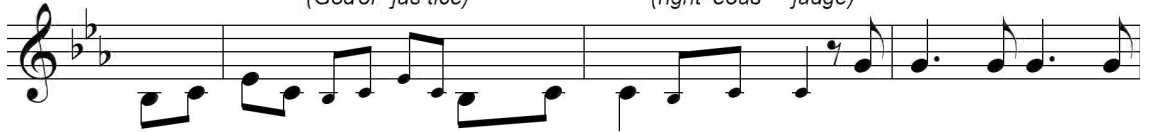


king - dom now ___ is come. ___ to Verses or Bridge

Bridge (after Vs 3)

(God of jus-tice)

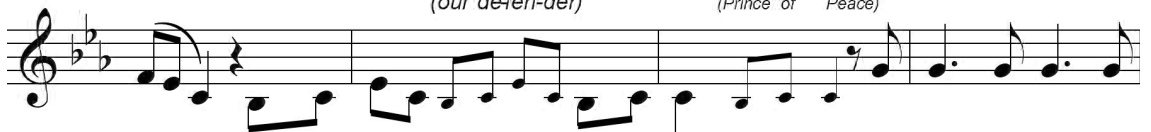
(right-eous judge)



God of jus-tice right - eous judge Be-hold, be-hold, be-

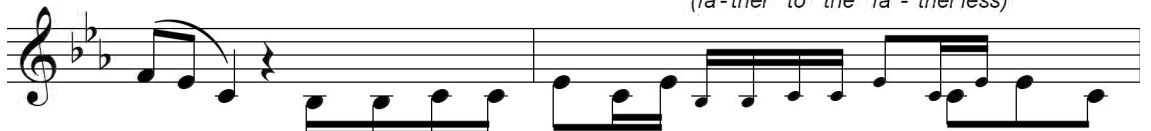
(our de-fen-der)

(Prince of Peace)



hold. Our de - fen-der Prince of Peace. Be - hold, be - hold, be-

(fa-ther to the fa - ther less)



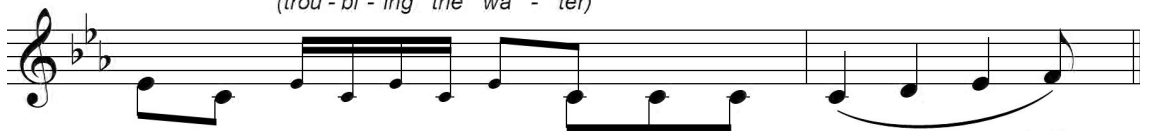
hold! Fa - ther to the fa - ther-less our strong de -

(our strong de-li-ver-er)



liv-er - er. Be - hold, be - hold, be - hold! He's trou-bl-ing the

(trou - bl - ing the wa - ter)



wa - ter. We're march - ing through! ___ to Chorus

Prayers of the People

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820.

Offertory

Song for Rachel

by Sandra McCracken

We leave behind
All the pain of alienation,
We bring the lies we believed
Out into the light,
The love we were made to feel,
Oh Rachel dry your tears,
Your hope it will rise

Until the trumpet sounds,
Until our home comes down,
Children of Zion raise up the sound,
Until our home comes down

I turn away from the springs
That cannot hold water
I will be sustained
By the true river of life
You make my eyes to see
You are upholding me
All through the night

Until the trumpet sounds,
Until our home comes down,
Children of Zion raise up the sound,
Until our home comes down

Set up a sign or a post
To give us direction,
Lead us by good, clear paths,
Show us the way
Our tired and restless ways
Help and defend us, please
Stay by my side

Until the trumpet sounds,
Until our home comes down,
Children of Zion raise up the sound,
Until our home comes down
Your deliverance is coming

For us while we wait,
In the wilderness You walk before us,
Give us grace
Your deliverance is coming
For us while we wait,
In the wilderness You walk before us,
Give us grace

* *Gloria Patri* Trinity Hymnal 734

**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.**

* **Benediction**

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward
to play the bells and wave the flags as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** Amen!**

traditional spiritual

A - men, a - men!

1. See him in the man - ger,
2. Now he is our Sav - ior,
3. Sing it o - ver,

A - men, a - men, a men.

*just a lit - tle ba - by,
and his name is Je - sus!
sing it o - ver!*

*Hear the an - gels sing - ing!
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - ia!*

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

*** Postlude**

Worship musicians
Michael Bukovietski,
Rachelle Kolkman,
Vivian Kolkman,
Elena Lorenz, song leaders

Adam Smith, bari sax
Grant Mosher, bass
Moses Vander Maas, drums

Susan Guerra, piano

Cover Art
Emma Bukovietski