

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright, arr. M. Burkhardt

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CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

People: Darkness has been banished!

Leader: God's light of hope floods the earth

People: God's light comes to us all.

Leader: Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

People: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen.

HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are, Kings of Orient

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]

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

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

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

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God's goodness.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

Star of Wonder

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Eternal God (*prayer continues...*) We pray the prayer taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Chorale: O Morning Star, D. Buxtehude

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

HYMN 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright, Puer Nobis Nascitur

1 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.

3 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.

2 '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.

4 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 AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, J. Pachelbel

Leaders Today

Pastor.....	Rev. Scott Anderson
Liturgist.....	Liane Kosaki
Minister of Music	Joe Chrisman
AV/Tech.....	John Tarr