

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 3, 2021

EPIPHANY

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude
Chorale by Phillip Nicolai (1599)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Magi had a dream.

They dreamed of a Messiah. They dreamed of just rulers. They dreamed of a new day for all people.

The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

They journeyed to unknown places. They followed a star. They walked for days to get to Jesus.

So may we be like the Magi,

May our dreams inspire action. May we worship the one true God. Amen.

HYMN

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.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.

I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi.

I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Show me the stars.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Raise a Song of Gladness

JUBILATE DEO

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David McCowen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Those Who Dream...Persevere

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,
Who came to this earth as a child,
Was born to unmarried teenage parents,
And was quickly made a refugee.
We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,
See the poor,
Dine with outcasts,
Welcome foreigners,
Wash the feet of sinners,
Offer second chances,
And bless the children.
And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.
The dream does not end with a manger.
The dream ends with God's promised day.
So until all God's children are home,
We will follow the Magi's lead—
Walking, seeking, and looking up.
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

LASST UNS ERFREUN

Prayer of Dedication

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of the People

Star Words

Prayer after Communion

HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Puer Nobis Nascitur
A Boy is Born for Us

Jean François Dandrieu

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are |
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Notes on Today's Music

Opening Voluntary Having been introduced to the text and music of what is considered the “King of Chorales” (“Wachet auf”; i.e. “Wake, Awake”) composed by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), a Lutheran pastor who served in Unna, Westphalia, Germany, you are now introduced the text and music by Philipp Nicolai of the “Queen of Chorales” It is often associated with Epiphany because of the star imagery, but the text is really addressed to Christ as the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16) An interesting note: each stanza of the text in both chorales forms the shape of a chalice when the lines are centered in both German and English.

*O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
Thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou root of Jesse, David's Son;
My Lord and Savior, Thou hast won
my heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou art holy,
fair and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.*

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) was a Danish-German organist and composer of the Baroque period. His organ works represent a central part of the standard organ repertoire. He composed in a wide variety of vocal and instrumental idioms, and his style strongly influenced many composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach, his student. Today, Buxtehude is considered one of the most important composers in Germany of the mid-Baroque.

First Hymn The author was William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), an English writer of hymns and carols. It first appeared in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London, 1859). The music is by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872), a German organist, choir director, composer and teacher. The music was composed specifically for the text, appeared in the above-referenced publication, and has been associated with it ever since.

Joyful Response The text from the Taizé and the music from the pen of Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) appeared in a number of small booklets in the early 1970s, these were not accessible in North America until 1981.

Benediction in Music The composer is unknown and the earliest known copy of the melody, *Puer Nobis Nascitur A Boy is Born for Us*, is found in a manuscript volume dated in the mid-14th century known as the Moosberg Gradual. In the *Glory to God hymnal*, the tune is married with an Epiphany text by Charles Coffin (1676-1749) This setting is from a collection of organ noëls by Jean François Dandrieu (1682-1739), a highly regarded French Baroque composer, harpsichordist and organist. Born into a Parisian family of artists and musicians, he was a gifted and precocious child, and gave his first public performances when he was 5 years old, playing the harpsichord for King Louis XIV of France, and his court.