



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

arr. M. Hayes

Luke 2:8-9: *There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.*

"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."

(The text of this spiritual was first published in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine in January 1891, in the middle of a fictional story called Christmas Gifts, by Ruth McEnery Stuart; public domain)
(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2007)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Call to Worship**

Don Kyle

L: The Christ child is born!

P: All you who would find him, prepare for a journey, as determined as the Magi.

L: All you who would praise him, come with the faith to follow but a star.

P: All you who would worship him, come with humility to the child who shows forth the immeasurable riches of God.

L: Let us worship the Christ Child!

****Hymn – 150**

As With Gladness Men of Old

****Silent Prayer of Confession**

****Common Prayer of Confession**

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 Pardon**

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

****Response – 108**

Of the Father's Love Begotten
verse 6

Moment with Children

Liz Perraud

Word in Music

Arise, Your Light Is Come!
Allen Exner, solo

arr. Joy Exner

Isaiah 60:1: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Those Who Followed a Star

Rev. Scott Hoffman

****Hymn - 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Offertory

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

arr. J. Schrader

Isaiah 40:11: *Like a shepherd He will tend His flock; in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.*

"Leave your sheep, leave your sheep, and leave your lambs; rise up, shepherd, and follow; leave your ewes and your rams, leave your ewes and rams; rise up, shepherd and follow. Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the Star of Bethlehem; rise up, shepherd, and follow." (see publication information above; public domain)
(this piano solo: Hope Publishing Co., 1997 and 2001)

****Doxology - 710**

We Lift Our Voices

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer

****Hymn - 135**

There's a Star in the East (Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow)

****Benediction**

Micah 5:4: And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.

"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."

(see publication information above; public domain) (this piano solo: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., 2003)

Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing video and audio support this week!

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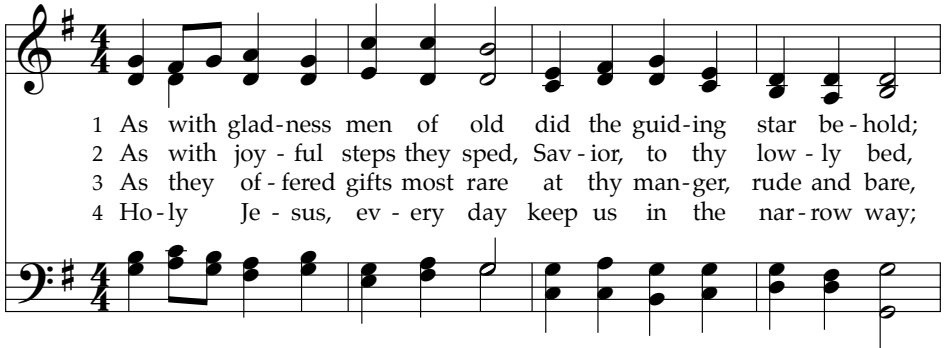
Service of Ordination and Installation

A special service of ordination and installation has been scheduled for TODAY immediately following our weekly worship service on Facebook live. The special service will take place via zoom (much like the congregational meeting in November). This will allow our new elders and deacons to answer the constitutional questions as well as receive a virtual laying on of hands. All members and friends of CMPC are welcome and encouraged to attend.

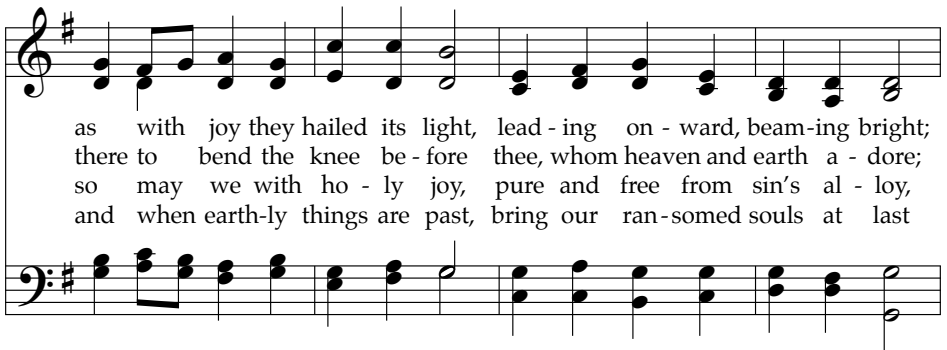
The zoom meeting ID for this service will be 835 4489 1998 and the passcode will be 282641.

If you would like to join via phone please dial 301-715-8592 and enter the same credentials.

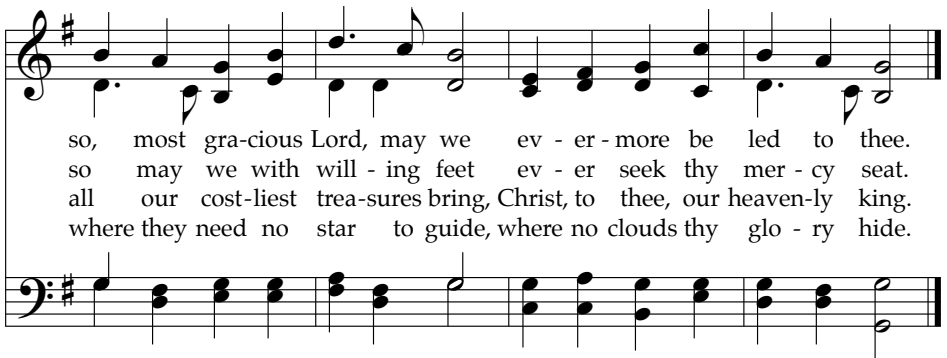
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

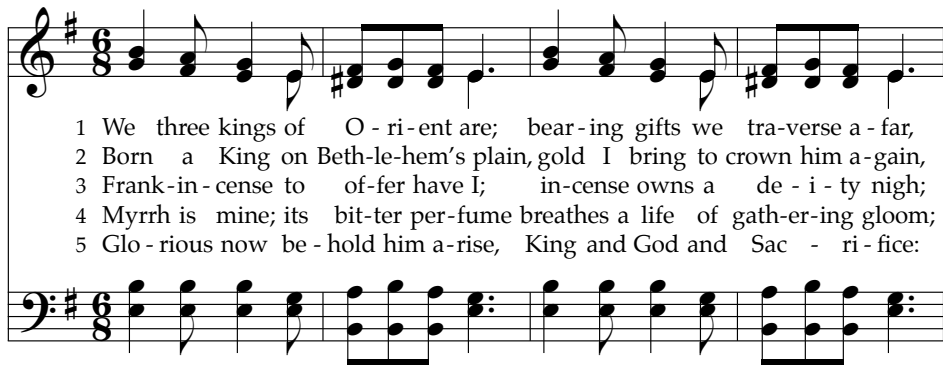
(after stanza 6)



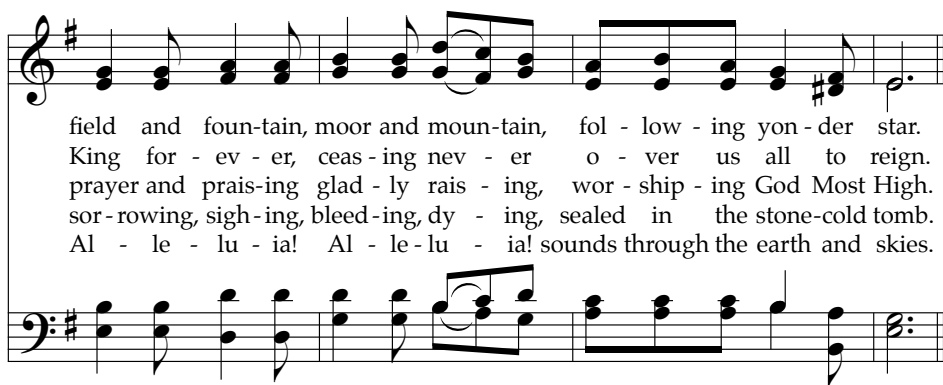
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain


O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

We Lift Our Voices

We Are an Offering

710

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
 voice - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our
 lives; they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our
 voice - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
 we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

There's a Star in the East

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

135

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol - low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
 fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your herds.

Refrain

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low;

rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star of

Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.