

# MORNING WORSHIP

January 3, 2021

Half past Ten O'Clock

## Second Sunday of Christmas GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTROIT

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"  
Ivey Cherry, baritone

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

**People: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**People: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

+HYMN

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**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.**

Refrain

**Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshiping God Most High.**

Refrain

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

Refrain

**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)

Rev. Beth Merrill Neel

**Gracious and merciful God, You know us. You know our hearts, You know our thoughts, You know our actions. You know our successes and our failures, that which commends us and that which condemns us. We know ourselves, too; we know the good we have done, and we know how we have fallen short. We would know You better, so that the burden of sin would not weigh us down. We would know You better, so that the freedom of Your mercy would enable us to fly. Forgive our sins, and restore us to wholeness, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE“

“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 glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.**

**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.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

“A Meeting with God“

Ashlee Anderson

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“All is Well”  
Ivey Cherry, baritone

Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick

\*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Gracious Lord, like the wisemen we gather our offerings and present them to You. For what You have given us out of love and grace, we give to You with gratitude and humility. May we continue to grow in the way we share our gifts, talents, and resources following in the footsteps of Your Son. We pray that You would receive our offerings and bind them to Your will. Bless the gifts we present today for the work of Your kingdom. Amen.**

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be seated after the Benediction until after the Postlude ends. Then, take caution to maintain social distance as you exit the Narthex.

\*Those who are able please stand.