

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Making Room, Moving Parts, Master Plan

January 4, 2026

Welcome

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We have come here for the first time this year! We have come to start 2026 the right way; in God's house!**

Leader: A new year is an opportunity for a new life, new things and new plans.

People: **Help us to embrace the new plans God has for us this year!**

Hymn

The First Noel

(all verses)

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Opening Prayer

Good morning, Creator of all things! As we start this year, we ask that you help us clear a path in our hearts. Smooth out the rough spots and level the mountains of stress or worry we've carried in with us. Let your presence be so clear and bright today that everyone here can feel it.

We also hear your call to dream bigger. Help us to 'widen our tents'—to open our lives and this community even further. Give us the courage to stretch out, to grow, and to move forward with the confidence that we are always supported by your steady love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1., 2., 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and

voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news!
 voice; now ye hear of end - less bliss: News, news!
 voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news!

Je - sus Christ is born to - day! Ox and ass be -
 Je - sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - pened
 Jē - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and

fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 heav - en's door, and ye are blest for - ev - er - more.
 calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Senior Choir

Worship the Light

David Catherwood

Young Disciples Chatting with Lisa

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 54:2-4

Enlarge the site of your tent,
 and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
 do not hold back; lengthen your cords
 and strengthen your stakes.
 For you will spread out to the right and to the left,
 and your descendants will possess nations
 and will settle desolate towns.
 Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
 do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace,

for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Making Room, Moving Parts, Master Plan

Lisa Whitaker

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

We Three Kings

John J. Hopkins

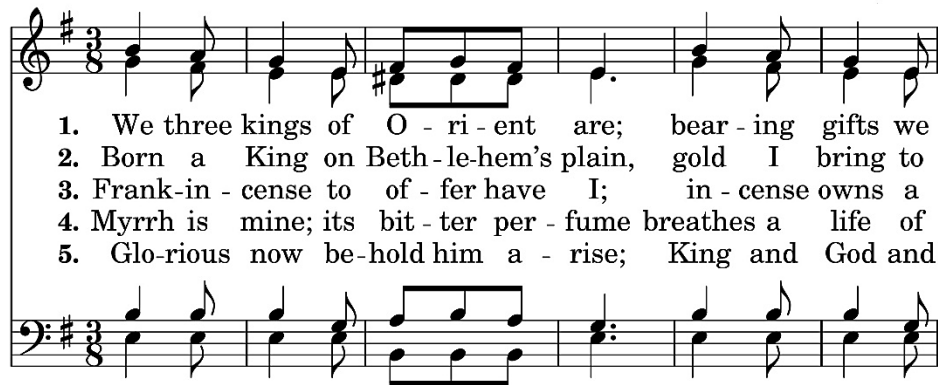
Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

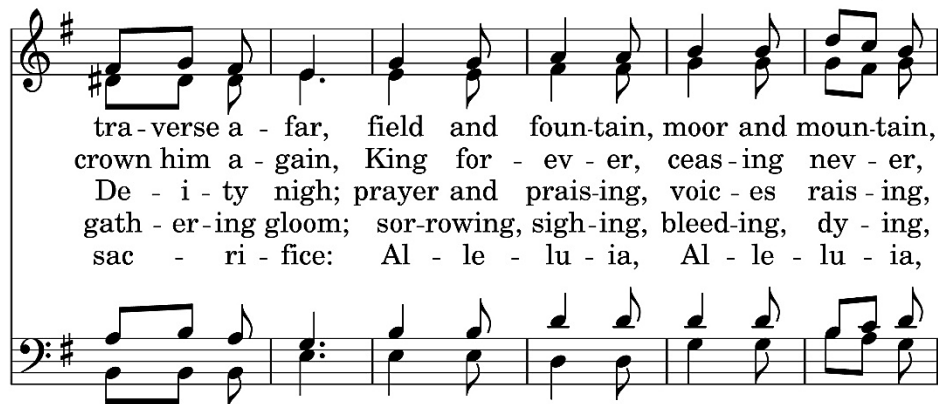
Hymn

We Three Kings

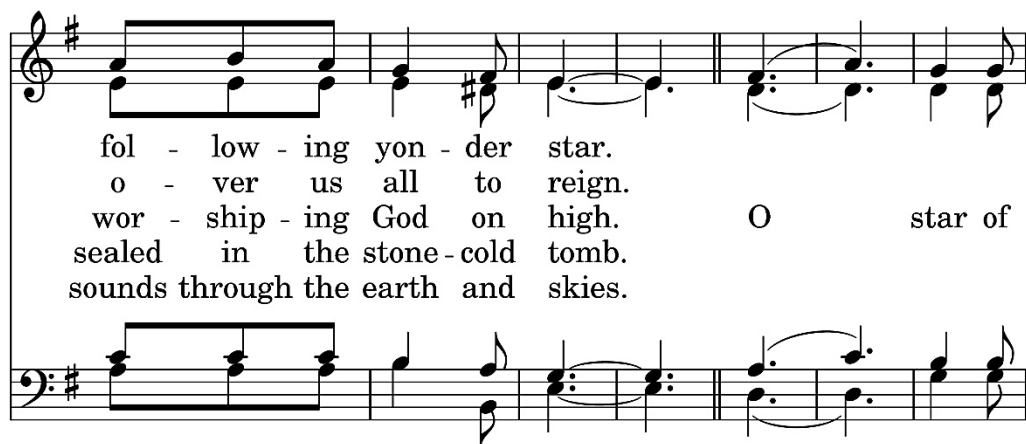
(all verses)



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and



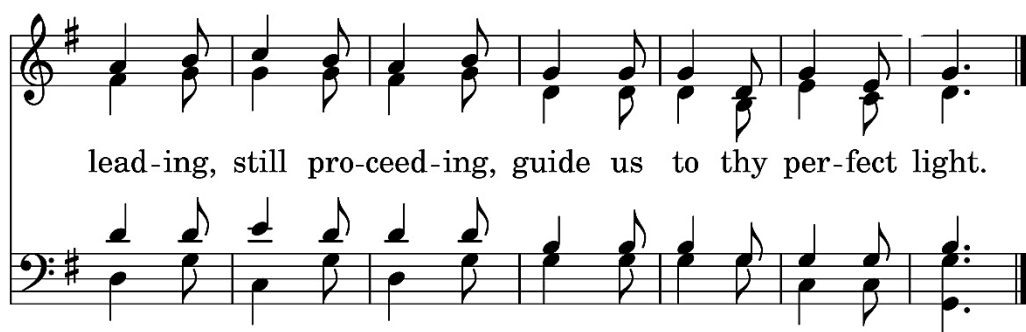
tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,
crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er,
De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing,
gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



fol - low - ing yon - der star.
o - ver us all to reign.
wor - ship - ing God on high. O star of
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
sounds through the earth and skies.



won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright, west-ward



lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

Benediction

Postlude

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable