

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Today Is Epiphany!

January 7, 2024

Today's Lay Reader: Tom Crawford

Welcome

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Henry Gauntlett

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come!

People: **We come, ready to receive the gifts God offers us every day. When we leave, we want to share God's love with others.**

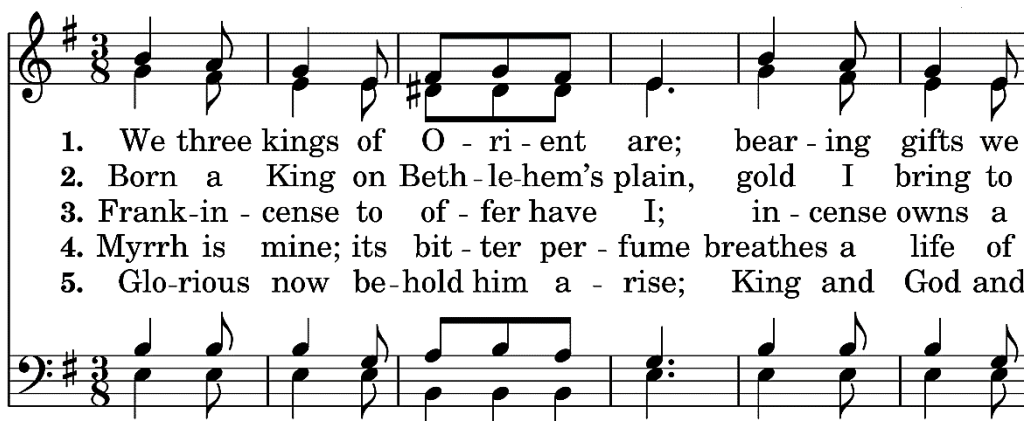
Leader: Christmas Day may be over, but God's gifts keep coming!

People: **Help us to be gracious when receiving, and generous when giving!**

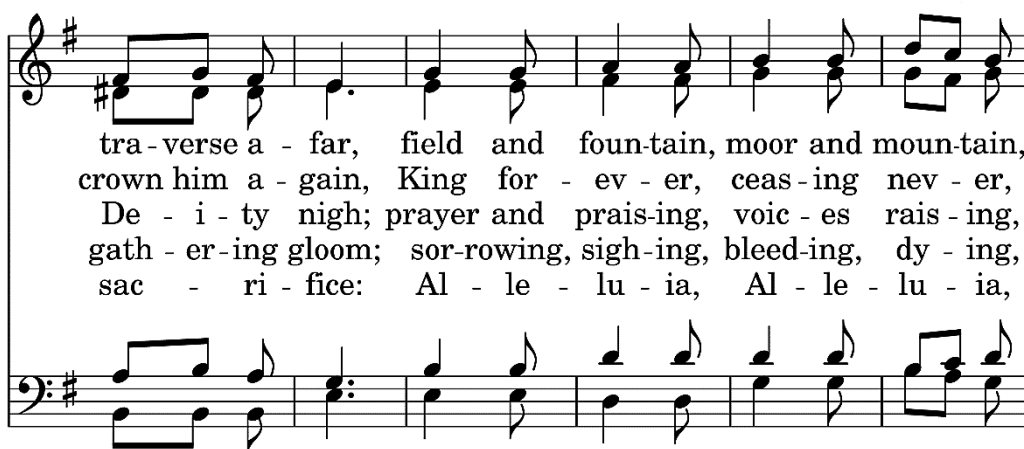
Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

(all verses)



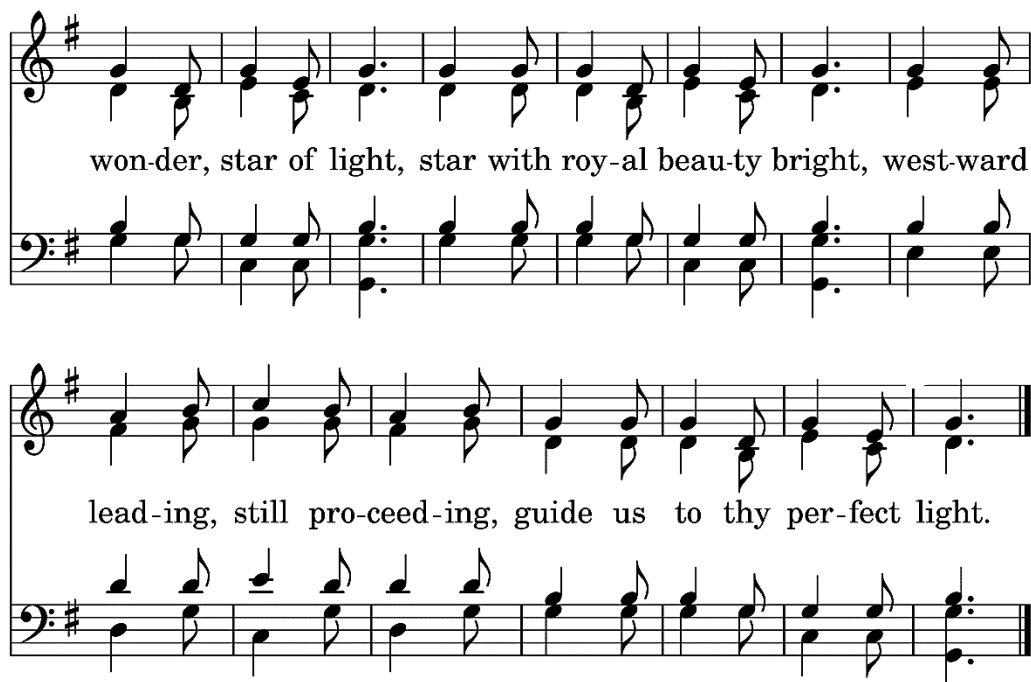
1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and



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.



wonder, 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.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, every good gift comes from you. The giving and receiving of gifts is one way we can give and receive love. But it shouldn't be the only way, and Christmas shouldn't be the only day. As we celebrate Epiphany, we remember that Christmas is a gift for every day. When we receive that gift, we then must share it. Help us to be cheerful givers who give freely! 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
 Je - 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

We Three Kings

arr. Andy Beck

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Today Is Epiphany!

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

We Three Kings

John J. Hopkins

Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 8](#) of this document.

Communion Anthem

Break Thou the Bread of Life

John Carter

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.

Benediction

Postlude

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

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A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
 power and might. Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - - -
 - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
 est! Blest is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup