



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Promenade on "We Three Kings"

Jack C. Goode

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The Call to Worship

Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

People: We are called out of our darkness into light.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

People: We rejoice in the gift of light.

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**People: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe,
the light incarnate.**

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of promise and light,
open our eyes this morning,
that we may see your light in the darkness.**

**Open our hearts,
that we may perceive your promises of justice
and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.**

**May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us
on our journey quest to find the one
who will truly set us free.**

**May this time of worship bring us closer to you,
that the good news of the birth of light and love
will transform our lives. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

1. 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 light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*
3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. *Refrain*
5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

What Happened to the Gifts?

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Invitation

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.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

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.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

A Carol of the Kings

Eric H. Thiman

Kate Hundley, mezzo soprano

They saw Him cradled in His mother's arms,
Those kings so great and fine,
With cattle breathing there among the straw,
Beside the Babe divine.

They took their gifts from pages standing by,
And knelt upon the floor,
To offer them in rev'rence and in love,
To worship and adore.

Then from the shed they slowly rode away
Upon their camels tall,
Within their hearts the mem'ry of a king,
So lovely, yet so small.

Irene Gass

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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.

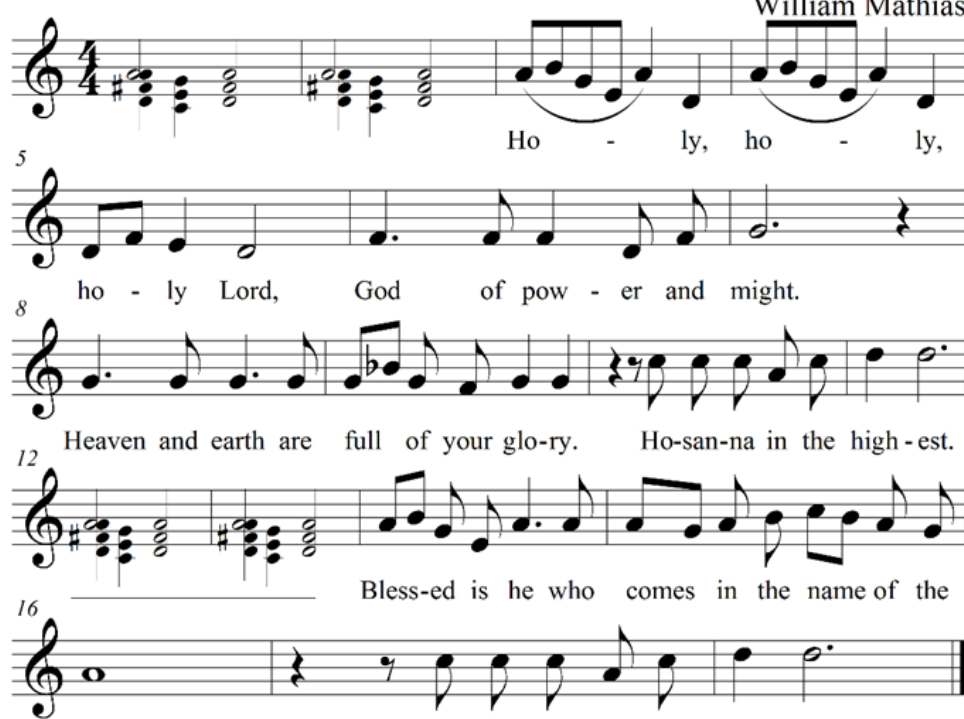
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion,
remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias



5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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.



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!
Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*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 for ever.*



A - men, a - men, a - men.
Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Hymn No. 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

- | | |
|---|---|
| Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born. | 1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. Refrain |
| 2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. Refrain | 3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain |

The Benediction

The Postlude

What Child Is This

16th Century English Melody

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Coming Messenger

The Visit of the Wise Men

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ “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.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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