

THOSE
WHO *persevere*
DREAM
Epiphany



EPIPHANY SUNDAY
A Service of Word and Feast

January 3, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

“Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, *Dust you are and to dust you shall return*, but ‘You are joined to heaven and into heaven you shall be taken up.’”

— *St. Basil the Great (Basil of Caesarea), c. 330-79*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” by Buxtehude *Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

Welcome

Introit — “I Wonder as I Wander,” arr. John Jacob Niles *Matthew Emery, tenor*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

— *traditional Appalachian*

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: A star has risen in the east.

Many: **Star of wonder, star of night!**

One: A child is born in Bethlehem.

Many: **Hark! The herald angels sing!**

One: Let us persevere, following the star to Bethlehem,

Many: **and bring our gifts and dreams to Christ.**

Hymn — “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: God of the stars and galaxies,
we, like the Magi, are walking toward you.
One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.
It is our very prayer to move your way.
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.
And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,
give us the will to persevere.
We are walking toward you, O God.
So like the parent that throws open the door,
open the door to us through your Day, your Word, your Feast, your Love.
Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — from “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

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!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The *refrain* (from "We Three Kings" – music above) is repeated.

Sermon — "Those Who Dream... *persevere*"

The Rev. Matthew Emery

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.

Text: Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch \$100").

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature.

An Offering Thought

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."- Isaiah 60:1

God continues to do new things among us—healing, restoring, and sustaining—and invites our participation in sharing the good news of the Christ. With the wise men and the faithful across time, we look to Jesus for our hope and eternal wellbeing. Step into the light and make 2021 a year of wellness "Jesus-style."

OFFERTORY MUSIC — "Arise, Shine" by Pote

Adult Choir Quartet:

Cathy Jeffers, Elaine Chague, Christopher Dustin, Rich Cowles

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Arise, arise, and shine like the sun, and all nations shall come,

and all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising.

The sun shall no longer be your light, nor the brightness of the moon by night.

But the Lord shall be your everlasting light, your God will be your everlasting light...

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

— based on Isaiah 60:1, 3, & 19

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

Many: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the Presence of Jesus Christ

Communion Hymn — “As with Gladness Men of Old”

this bulletin, pg. 9

Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

inspired by the Epiphany chorale “O Morning Star”

One: The Lord be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

***Many:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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

***Many:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
From before the earth’s foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever.
Within the earth’s deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might.
Despite our tears and brokenness, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star.

Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear.

He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.

He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation, he took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for all people.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With joy we tell our story:

***Many:* Alleluia!**

One: We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.
Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son.
Nourish us as branches of your tree,
and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the great Creator,
we ring out to the great Redeemer,

we exult in the great Spirit.
Transport us in our yearning,
and be for us the end and the beginning,
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love.

And so we pray and praise:

Many: Amen, amen, amen, amen!

Sharing the Feast

The pastor will guide worshipers through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of communion.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to *all*—including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

**Many: O Morning Star, clear and bright,
you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure.
Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—
that we tell the story of your never-ending love
and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

this bulletin, pg. 10

Benediction

Postlude — “In Thee Is Gladness” composed for the New Year by J.S. Bach

Dr. Snyder, organ

In Thee is gladness, amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart!
By Thee are given the gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art!
Our souls Thou wakest, our bonds Thou breakest,
Who trusts Thee surely hath built securely,
He stands forever: Hallelujah!
Our hearts are pining to see Thy shining,
Dying or living to Thee are cleaving,
Nought can us sever: Hallelujah!

— John Lindemann, 1598;
trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- “Those Who Dream” theme materials for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany from A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. Materials used under license.
- Call to Worship from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Preaching, Music, and the Arts*, vol. 54.1, “Lectionary Aids for 2020-2021, Year B”, alt.
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141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring



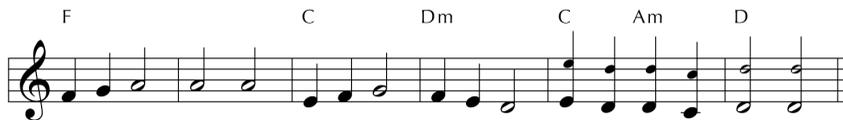
1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



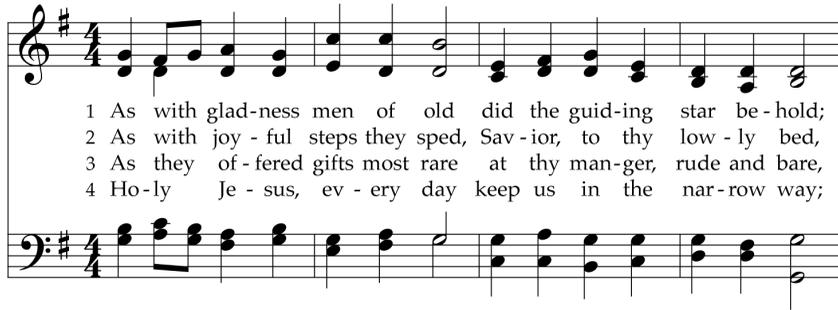
id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

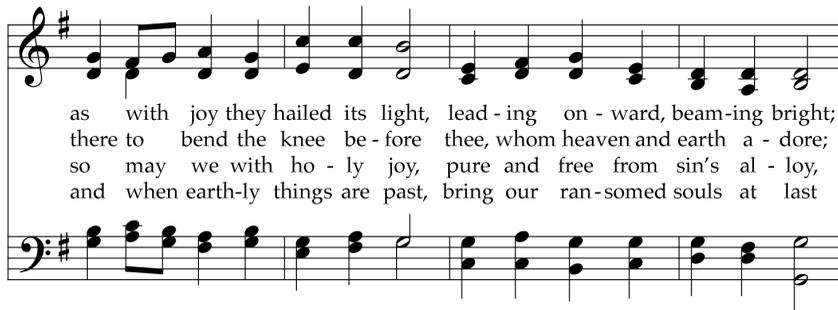
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this Latin carol for Christmas may have roots several centuries older than its 16th-century emergence, the text was all in one language until its 20th-century translator chose to adopt the original last two lines of the fourth stanza as a unifying refrain in all stanzas.

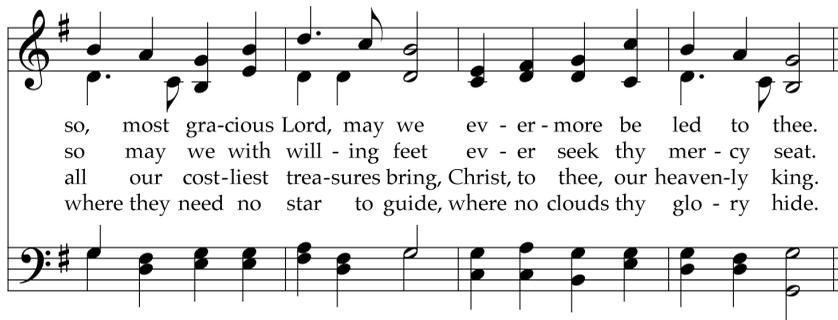
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



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 heaven-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.

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - - sus.

A Note on Giving: We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God’s mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.

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- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a *credit* card, know that we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a *credit* card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God’s love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God’s love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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