



Let us know that you are here

## Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

### Gathering

#### Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

#### Prelude

Glory to God Hymnal #147 v.1-4

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay  
keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night  
that was so deep.

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell,  
Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east  
beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,

and so it continued both  
day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came  
from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star  
wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh  
to the northwest;  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place  
where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

#### Call to Worship

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

One: The Magi had a dream.

**Many: They dreamed of a Messiah.**

**They dreamed of just rulers.**

**They dreamed of a new day for all people.**

One: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

**Many: They journeyed to unknown places.**

**They followed a star.**

**They walked for days to get to Jesus.**

One: So may we be like the Magi.

**Many: May our dreams inspire action.**

**All: May we worship the one true God. Amen.**

#### Gathering Prayer

Lois Morse

## **Call to Confession**

Lois Morse

One: Let us make our confession to the One who came to the earth to dine with outcasts, welcome strangers, wash the feet of sinners, offer second chances, and bless all of God's children.

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Many: God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.  
I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.  
I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.**

**Unfortunately, as you know, God, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.**

**Now and again, the stars disappear.**

**My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.**

**On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.**

**Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.**

**I want to be as brave as the Magi.**

**I want to persevere.**

**So guide my feet, Lord, and show me the stars.**

One: Please continue in silent confession.... Amen.

## **We Are Forgiven!** (Isa. 60:5; John 1:1-5)

Lois Morse

One: Brothers and sisters, there is a light in the darkness. It is the light of Christ, who gives life to all people. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Thank you Lord! Amen!**

## **Word**

## **A Time for Children**

Yvette Grant

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

**Message**

“Those Who Dream... Persevere”

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

### **The Lord’s Supper**

**The Lord’s Supper/The Lord’s Prayer** Rev. Sandra Hedrick and Yvette Grant

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 the glory, forever. Amen.

**Communion Music**

“What Child Is This - Variations on Greensleeves”

### **Sending**

**Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

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 gladly 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*

## Charge and Blessing

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

One: Friends in faith, Christmas is only the beginning. The dream does not end with a manger. The dream ends with God's promised day.

So until all God's children are home, let us follow the Magi's lead - walking, seeking, and looking up.

**All: May it be so, for this we believe. Amen!**

## Announcements

**Epiphany Sunday (Communion Sunday)** - Today we invited you to draw a "star word" as one way to tap into your faith journey in 2021. If you are not in church this week or next, we can mail you a word or send it to you by email. Please email the church office at [home@kirkwoodchurch.org](mailto:home@kirkwoodchurch.org) or Pastor Sandra at [alexandrahedrick@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrahedrick@gmail.com) to get your "star word"!

**Installation Service Next Week** - On January 10, we will install our elder class of 2023. Please wear red that day as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit!

**Wednesday Nights Online** - We will resume our prayer services on January 6.

**Spanish Bible Study** - Spanish Bible Study continues this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We will study Thessalonians chapter 1: Being an example.

El estudio bíblico en español continúa este miércoles a las 7:00 p.m. Estudiaremos el capítulo Tesalonicenses cap.1 Somos ejemplos.

The Zoom link will be sent to those wishing to participate. Please contact Yvette Grant at 904.881.3289 or at [clgygcj2@yahoo.com](mailto:clgygcj2@yahoo.com) if you wish to participate.

**Financial Giving** - In joyful praise, we offer to God a portion of all that we have received! You may place your offering in the offering plate at the back of the church, drop off a check at the church office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#).

Worship Notes: Thank you to Kathy Stanley for playing the piano this morning and to Damon Martin for the Communion Hymn arrangement. Song credits: "The First Nowell" - Public Domain; "What Child Is This - Variations on Greensleeves" - Public Domain; "We Three Kings of Orient Are" - Public Domain.

We give credit to Sarah Are, Lisle Gwynn Garrity, and A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org for some of the liturgy and thematic artwork today.



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Phone/Fax: 904.777.0006 | website: [www.kirkwoodchurch.org](http://www.kirkwoodchurch.org)

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

Phone: 904.612.9766 | E-mail: [alexandrahedrick@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrahedrick@gmail.com)