

First Baptist Church at Worship

An Epiphany Celebration

January 1, 2023

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

*We have seen the rising star;
the mystery of the ages is revealed.
The nations will come in wonder
to sing the praise of the Lord.*

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

- Latin hymn; attr. John Francis Wade

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Paul Sims

Response

GREENSLEEVES

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

- William C. Dix

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Nick Hibbard

First Lesson

Alex Lockridge

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.

- Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, 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.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

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*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
 Prayer and praising, voices raising, worship him, God on high.
 O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
 Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
 Alleluia, alleluia sounds through the earth and skies.
 O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

- John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Second Lesson – Matthew 2:13-23

Paul Sims

Sermon

“Choose Epiphany – Pay Him Homage”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
 So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.
 As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
 There to bend the knee before Christ whom heaven and earth adore,
 So may we with willing feet, ever seek the mercy seat.
 As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.*

- William C. Dix

Offertory Prayer

Paul Sims

Offertory

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

by R. Fischer Boyce

Nick Hibbard

*Oh, beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shining afar thru shadows dim,
 Giving a light for those who long have gone;
 And guiding the wise men on their way unto the place where Jesus lay,
 Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.*

*Oh, beautiful Star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrim thru the night,
Over the mountain till the break of dawn;
And unto the light of perfect day it will give out a lovely ray,
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.
Oh, beautiful Star, the hope of rest, for the redeemed, the good and blest,
Yonder in glory when the crown is won;
For Jesus is now that Star divine, brighter and brighter he will shine,
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.*

Remembering Our Past

Paul Sims

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

The Lord's Prayer

*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 who 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.*

Doxology for Epiphany

THE FIRST NOWELL

*To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thanks and praise.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

- Charles Coffin

Sending

Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

*Go now to seek out the Christ wherever he may be found;
share the good news with all who will hear.
Bring light to those in darkness, give a voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless.
And may God make you to share in the promised kingdom,
may Jesus Christ fill you with joy and peace,
and may the Holy Spirit help you to bear Christ's light everywhere you go. Amen.*

Carolyn Garr, accompanist