

**Our Service of Worship for January 3, 2021**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Westwood First Presbyterian Church

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Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Of the Father's Love Begotten”—arr. Gilbert M. Martin

During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship/Opening Prayer

Hymn: “*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*” \*

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination/Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 \*

Sermon: “*The Troubling Star*”

Solo: “Sweet Little Jesus Boy”—Robert MacGimsey      Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.**

Hymn: “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*” \*      Travis Pearce, tenor and Paul Vigar, baritone

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “Overture from ‘Unto Us a Child Is Born’”—J. S. Bach

\* The words to the hymns and the Scripture reading are included with the order of worship.

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Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi  
*Pastor*

Heather MacPhail  
*Organist/Director of Music Ministries*



## What Star is This, with Beams So Bright

1. What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.
2. O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,  
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.
3. To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.



## We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, 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  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
4. Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
5. Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.



## First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6—The Gathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12—The Visit of the Wise Men**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Moment for Meditation—Epiphany**

Although the scribes could explain where the Messiah should be born, they remained quite unperturbed in Jerusalem. They did not accompany the Wise Men to seek him. Similarly we may be able to explain every article of our faith—yet remain spiritually motionless. The power that moved heaven and earth leaves us completely unmoved. What a contrast! The three kings had only a rumor to go by. But it spurred them to set out on a long, hard journey.

The scribes, meanwhile, were much better informed, much better versed. They had sat and studied the scriptures for years—but it didn’t make any difference. Who had the more truth? Those who followed a rumor—or those who remained sitting, satisfied with all their knowledge?

~ Soren Kierkegaard, *Watch for the Light*

