

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship Brian Calfano

One: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

All: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

One: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

All: The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

One: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

All: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. Amen.

Prelude Meditation on Hyfrydol Andrew Hackett
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Ringing of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and
onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Hymn #114** As With Gladness Men of Old

***Invocation** Brian Calfano

***Prayer of Confession** Psalm 139

All: Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives. Illumine us by your Word so we may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 139

One: Through the generosity of God, through the grace of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and was resurrected, through the presence of God in the Holy Spirit, your confession is heard, you are received, you are made whole again. This is our good news!

All: Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri #575**

Glory Be to the Father

Anthem

Shall We Gather at the River

Arr. John Carter

Covenant Choir

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river.
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down,
Grace and spirits will deliver and provide a throne and crown.

Refrain

Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, I want to cross over into campground.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease.
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

Refrain

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Offertory

The Old Year is Passed Away, BWV 614

J.S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

***Doxology #572** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
At this time all children are invited to go to Children's Church.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** Bulletin pg. 7 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Scripture Lesson

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Old Testament

Number 24:15-17

Then he spoke his message: "The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth."

New Testament

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

One: This is God's Word for God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Star

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

***Hymn** Bulletin pg. 8

We Three Kings

Procession of the Magi

***Blessing of Our Gifts**

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Ludwig van Beethoven

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Mission Partner Prayer Request

Everyone is aware of the tragic news from last Monday's Bengal's game, when Bills player Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest in the first few minutes of the game, and is now recovering at University Hospital. The Bengal's chaplain, Vinnie Rey, a former player, is also on staff with Athletes in Action, together with his wife, Noel, both working with our long-time mission partner, Mark Householder. As you'd imagine, per Mark, Vinnie "is having an interesting week." Let's pray this week for everyone impacted after Monday's game—for Damar Hamlin's healing; for the Bengals and Bills players, staff and fans, who "saw their worst nightmare play out on the field/on TV"; and for Vinnie and Noel, as they minister to the team, that the Holy Spirit would work powerfully through their ministry with the team. Their key prayer request: that Jesus would bring comfort and healing through all of this.

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

James Proctor Harding, 1892

1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2. Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
3. Shall we then yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
O - dors of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all!
Myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.*

We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.44.6 with refrain

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.
Intro. Robert Stigall, 1988



All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are,
Opt. solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain,
Opt. solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:
Opt. solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume
All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise,

Optional Introduction



Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain, King for ev - er,
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
King and God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,



moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
we are rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia Sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain

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!

As with Gladness Men of Old 114

When they saw the star, they rejoiced . . . Matt. 2:10

William C. Dix, 1858

DIX 777777
Conrad Kocher, 1838

1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day Keep us in the

star be - hold; As with joy they hailed its light,
man - ger bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; And when earth - ly things are past,

Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
Him Whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So, may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no

Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to Thee.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'n - ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide. A - men.

HIS BIRTH

This Week at CFPC

Sunday, January 8

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study
10:30 AM — Worship
11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

Monday, January 9

6:30 PM — Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 11

12 Noon — Brown Bag Bible Study

Saturday, January 14

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study

Planning Ahead at CFPC

Sunday, January 15

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study
10:30 AM — Worship
11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day — Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 18

12 Noon — Brown Bag Bible Study

Thursday, January 19

6 PM — Senior Singles Outing — RSVP required.

Saturday, January 20

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study

New Study -- The Israel Story -- Beginning Wednesday, January 25 at 6:15 PM

Back by popular demand, The Israel Story, led by John Myers, will begin Wednesday, January 25. This study will continue for five weeks on Wednesday evenings.