



Service of Worship January 7, 2024 9:30am  
Epiphany, Star Sunday, and Baptism of the Lord

### Gathering

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings"  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. David Clark Isele

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative "amen." Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**ALL: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

ONE: Let us praise the Lord together.

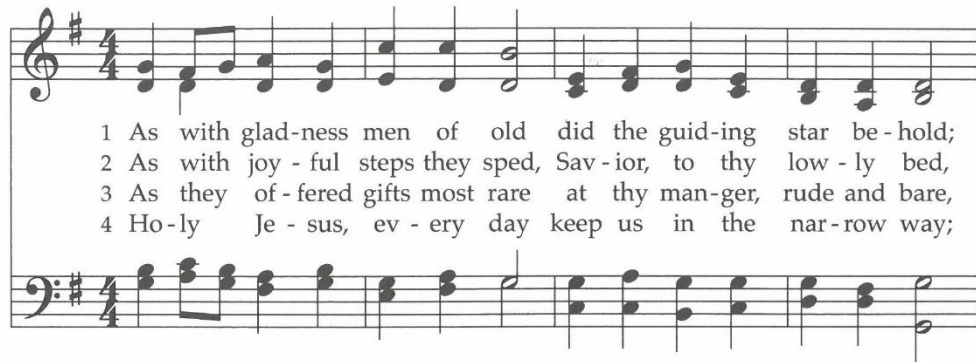
**ALL: The sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine upon us,**

ONE: for the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.

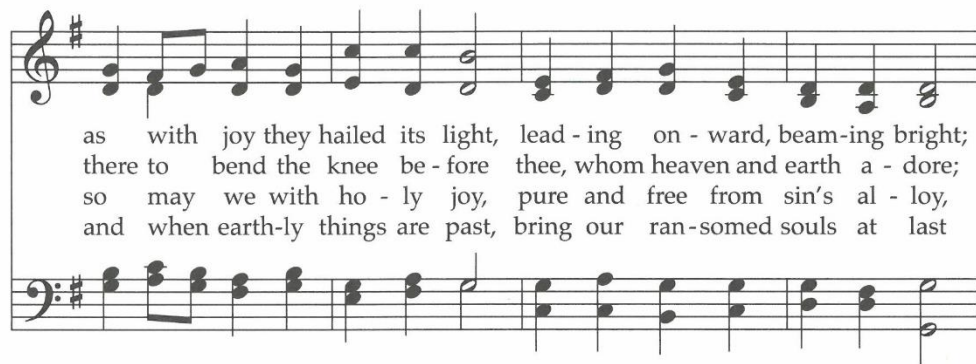
**ALL: The Lord will be our everlasting light, and our days of sorrow will end.  
Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!**

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

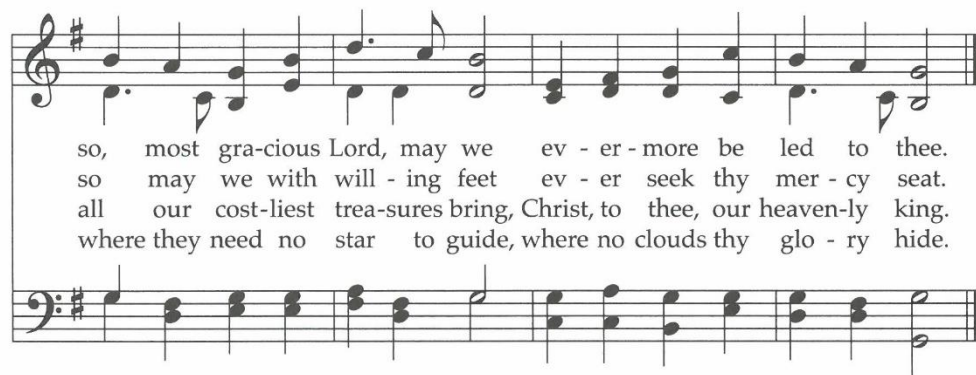
## As with Gladness Men of Old 150



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.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX  
7.7.7.7.7.7

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** **And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 152

**"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"**  
***(Stanzas 1 & 4)***

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

# What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)  
D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more  
2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From  
3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an  
4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)  
D A D G D A

love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis  
Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed"; and  
in-ward light the Lord con-veys and  
pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)  
Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad  
lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to  
urg-es them, with ten-der might, to  
not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)  
A D A D G A D

ti-dings of our God to bring.  
read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.  
seek the giv-er of the light.  
guid-ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

LM  
(alternate harmonization, 254)

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1–5; 19–22 (NRSVue)

Nancy Kalesz

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
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.  
Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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 in their nurses' arms.  
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.

The sun shall no longer be  
your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give light to you by night,  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.  
Your sun shall no more go down  
or your moon withdraw itself,  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.  
Your people shall all be righteous;  
they shall possess the land forever.  
They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands,  
so that I might be glorified.  
The least of them shall become a clan  
and the smallest one a mighty nation;  
I am the Lord;  
in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

### SUNG PRAYER

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers  
Donna Heer & Chris Lindsay, violins

by Johann Kuhnau  
ed. & arr. John Leavitt

*How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy  
beaming from afar; The host of heav'n rejoices;  
O Righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod. You Son of Man and Son of God.  
We, too, will lift our voices; Jesus, holy, yet most lowly,  
draw thou near us; Great Emmanuel, come and hear us.  
Rejoice, you heav'ns; and earth, reply; with praise,  
all people, fill the sky, for this his Incarnation.  
Incarnate God, put forth your pow'r, Ride on, great Conqueror,  
Till all know your salvation. Amen. Alleluia!  
Praise be given evermore, by earth and heaven.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

## Matthew 2:1–12 (NRSVue)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“A Guiding Light”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

## OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Syrinx”

by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Kat Mason, alto flute

*And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17 (NRSVue)*

## Sending

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

by J.S. Bach

Linda Dover, organist

arr. by John Leavitt

Prayer After Communion

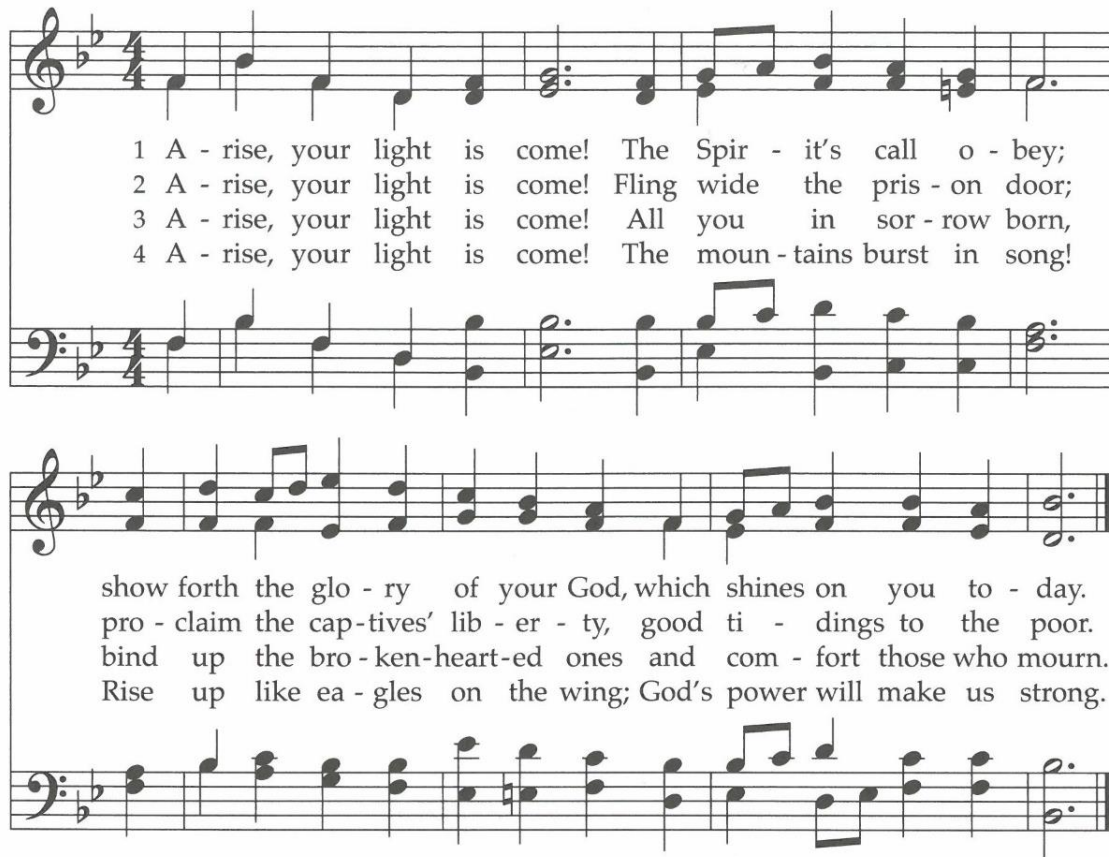
\*HYMN 744

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

FESTAL SONG



# 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974  
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894  
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG  
 SM  
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

## POSTLUDE

"Laudate!" (Praise!)  
 Inspired by Telemann's *Laudate Jehovam*  
 Linda Dover, organist

by John Leavitt

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU



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