



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
January 5, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.**

Prelude Variation on *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen!*
Arr. Austin Lovelace
Marty Franklin

Words of Welcome Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come.
Many: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
One: Come, worship the Lord of glory.
All: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.
 Let us worship God together!

***Hymn (#151)**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession

Rev. R.C. Griffin

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. (Silence)

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

One: This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world.

All: Christ grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

Thanks be to God.

*Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace

*Congregational Response (#113)

Angels We Have Heard on High, Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem

Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Sermon

Follow the Star

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith (#110)**

Love Has Come

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Variation on *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen!*

Lovelace

***Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #147)**

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore.

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

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Loving God:

Many: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the word made flesh.

One: Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us.

**All: Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

***Invitation**

***Great Thanksgiving**

One: God with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: God of all times and places...

... and we sing...

Sung Response (#144, v. 1)

In the Bleak Midwinter

One: We remember Jesus...

... and we sing...

Sung Response (#144, v. 2)

In the Bleak Midwinter

One: On that night...
... When you drink this, remember me.

Sung Response (#144, v. 3)

In the Bleak Midwinter

One: Come to us...
Hear our prayers, O God,

Many: and in your mercy, answer.

One: We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ we come again.

Sung Response (#144, v. 4)

In the Bleak Midwinter

***Lord's Prayer**

***Breaking of the Bread**

Prayer of Gratitude

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#152)**

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Variation on God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen!

Lovelace

***Please rise, in body or spirit.**



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151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! 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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

In the Bleak Midwinter 144



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 yet wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

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 ful - 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)