

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 3, 2020

Second Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings”

Joyce Harris

By J. H. Hopkins, arr. by Erinn Jarrell Schwatz

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We are the community of faith that has been set free by the love of God.

PEOPLE: **We are the people who have been set free
by the word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.**

LEADER: We have come not to parade our own goodness
but to praise the holiness of God.

PEOPLE: **We have come not to boast of what we have done
but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.**

ALL: **With all our being, we will praise you, O God,
and tell of all your kindness toward us. Amen.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Living God, moved by the coming of Christ to our lives, we seek to be your people.

Help us to live in faithful covenant with you and with one another.

**Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let Christ’s message in all its richness
live in our heart, that we may praise you without ceasing. Amen.**

OPENING CAROL #150CH

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

*Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God, and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph in the skies,
with the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”*

*Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us do dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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**

CAROL #159

“As with Gladness, Those of Old”

*As with gladness, those of old
did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we
evermore your splendor see.*

*As with joyful steps they sped,
to the lowly manger bed,
There on bended knees before
One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

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

*⁶ ‘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.’”*

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

SERMON

“Ah, Ha!”

Rev. Linda Skaggs

MEDLEY OF CAROLS

CAROL #139

“The First Nowell”

*The first Nowell, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep
on a cold winters night that was so deep.*

Refrain

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

*They looked above and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night*

Refrain

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born in a manger , Emmanuel.*

CAROL #133

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark streets shines forth, the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing, and voices ring, with peace to all on earth.*

CAROL #157

“Brightest and Best”

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our midnight and lend us your aid.
Star of the East the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on the cradle the dew drops shining,
God's holy Child with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore while this baby lies sleeping,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.*

CAROL #172 CH

“We Three Kings”

*We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to your 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*

Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to your perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise;
Christ and God and sacrifice:
alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to your perfect light.*

PIANO SOLO

“Gloria In Excelsis Deo!”

Terry Jones

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verse 4)

*What shall I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
What can I offer: all my heart*

Prayer of Dedication

**Generous and loving God, receive our gifts;
receive our lives made new by your blessing.
May we plant seeds, heal wounds, and build up your world.
May we love and seek and embrace your children.
We dedicate these offerings and ourselves toward the realization
of your realm in our midst.
Multiply and prosper our ministries in Christ's name. Amen**

CAROL #154

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain

*God tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy night.*

Refrain

*God tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviors birth.*

Refrain

*God tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sei Lob und Her dem Hoechsten Gut”

Joyce Harris

(Glory and Praise be to the Highest God, the Creator of All Good)

by Johann Krebs

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

Joyce Harris

Organist

Terry Jones

Pianist

Dr. Oliver Lawrence

Videographer

Linda Skaggs

Guest Preacher