



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2021

PRELUDE: Chorale Prelude on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"
John Finney, organ

Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the magi, we are travelers on a spiritual journey.
We come bearing gifts. We are starstruck.
We are filled with hope by this child of God.

HYMN: Brightest and Best
New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) #157

Morning Star

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of mercy, We have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you in all of the ways that you are known to us. We have not loved you in the faces of our neighbors, and we have not fully loved ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN: What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #H-4

Puer nobis nascitur

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON: "The Gift of Holy Darkness"

Matt Wooster

ANTHEM: The Shepherds' Farewell (from *L'Enfance du Christ*)

Hector Berlioz

Chancel Choir (recorded on January 6, 2019)

*Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!
Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!
Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heavenly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!*

SHARING OF CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR 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, for ever.
Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #168

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Preaching Rev. Matt Wooster
Liturgists Rev. Anne Marie Holloway, Rev. Judy Swahnberg
Soloists Laurie Stewart Otten, Shannon Lebrón,
 Christian Figueroa, Garrett Murphy

Brightest and Best

157

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.
 God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - 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.

An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His *Hymns* (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.

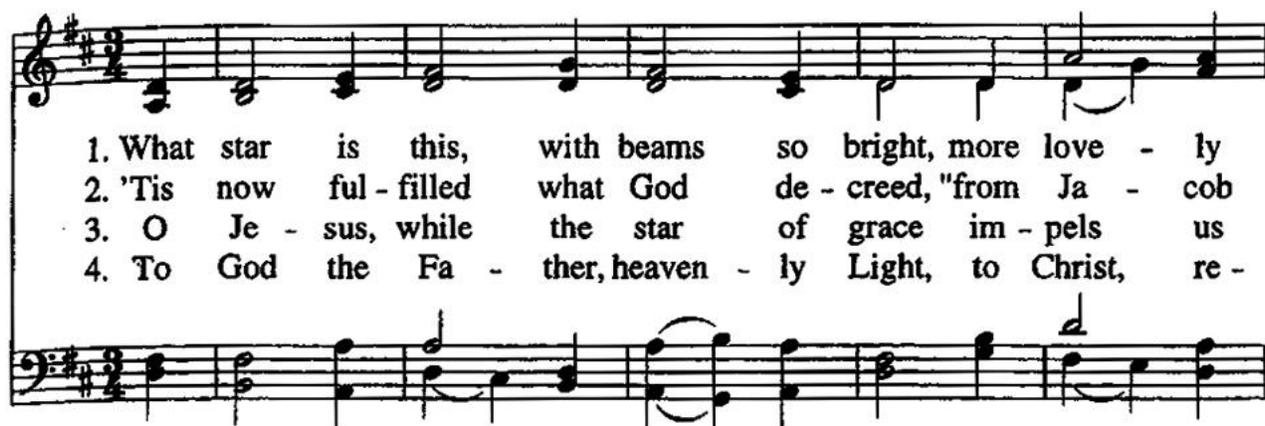
Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.

James P. Harding, 1892

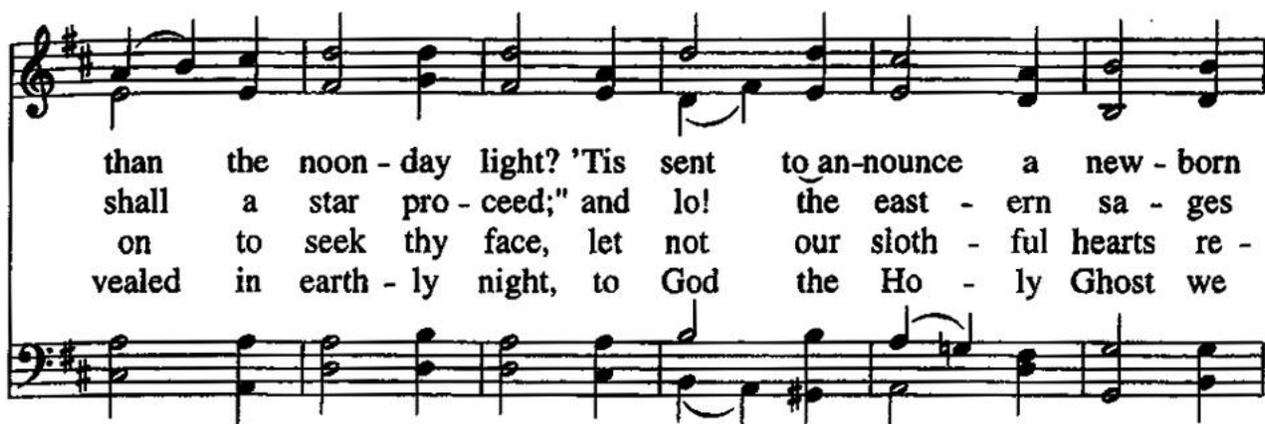
The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901

Alternate setting: WALKER

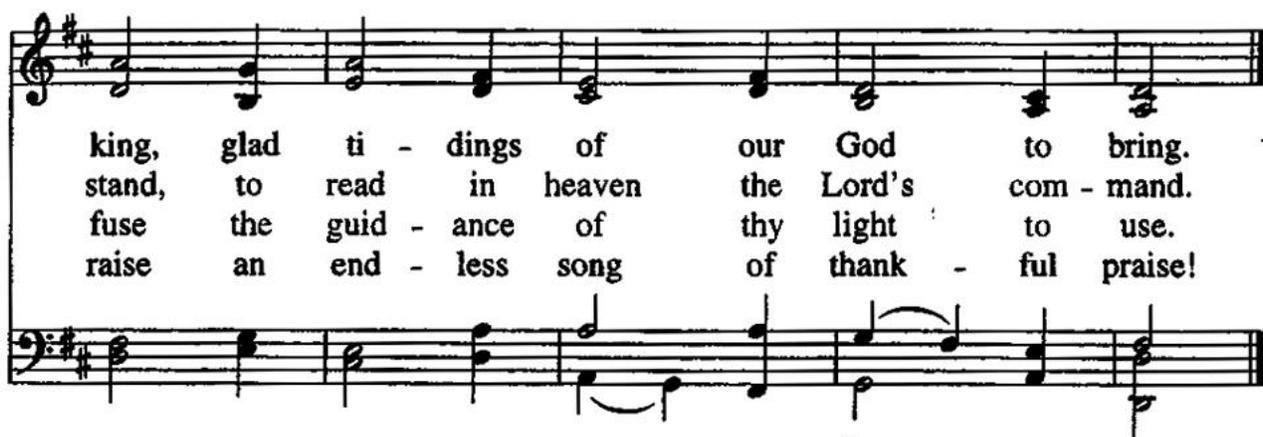
What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright H-4



1. What star is this, with beams so bright, more love - ly
 2. 'Tis now full - filled what God de - creed, "from Ja - cob
 3. O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
 4. To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -



than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a new - born
 shall a star pro - ceed;" and lo! the east - ern sa - ges
 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful hearts re -
 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly Ghost we



king, glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
 stand, to read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 raise an end - less song of thank - ful praise!

WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.
 MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM

As with Gladness Men of Old

168



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare, at the 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 him 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 treas-ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1861. alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William H. Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

William Chatterton Dix was a Glasgow, Scotland insurance salesman whose avocations were languages and poetry. In his day, lay hymn writers were a rarity.

EPIPHANY