
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Star of Hope Richard Keys Biggs

Introit

“Saw You Never, in the Twilight” Harold Friedell

*Saw you never, in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies;
up in heaven, the clear stars shining through the gloom like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star,
and they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.
Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning star?
He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts best treasures bring:
love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.*

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Invocation

*Hymn 744 “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of grace,
you have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but there are times when we choose darkness
and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love.
We let ourselves become confused,
easily distracted, and we lose our way.
Help us imitate the example of the magi,
who followed your light wherever it led them.
May we journey into our year
trusting that your goodness and light
will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 98 Old Testament, page 521

Anthem

“A Christmas Carol” Charles Ives

Little star of Bethlehem! Do we see thee now?

Do we see thee shining o’er the tall trees?

Little child of Bethlehem! Do we hear thee in our hearts?

Hear the angels singing, “Peace on earth, goodwill to all.” Noel.

O’er the cradle of a King, hear the angels sing, “Glory in the highest.”

From his Father’s home on high, lo, for us he came to die.

Hear the angels sing, “Come, let us adore the Lord.”

First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1–6 Old Testament, page 649

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1–12 New Testament, page 1

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Mirror Images Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

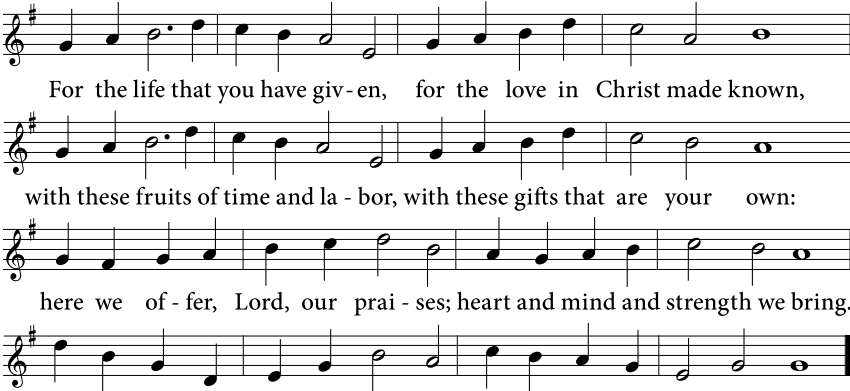
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

See the Eastern Star Puerto Rican carol
arr. Michael Burkhardt

*Offertory Response



For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed by 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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” French carol
arr. H. Barrie Cabena

*’Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled;
great Spirit, Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
“Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born, glory in the highest.”
Within a lodge of broken bark, the tender babe was found.
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunters brave drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
“Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born, glory in the highest.”
The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born, glory in the highest.
O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born, glory in the highest.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

O God,
who in Jesus called us out of darkness
into marvelous light,
enable us always to declare your wonderful deeds.
Give us courage and conviction,
that we may joyfully turn and follow you,
led by the light that shines
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

*Hymn 156 “Sing of God Made Manifest”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

In Thee Is Joy Johannes Matthias Michel

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Karen Ross on behalf of the Sunlight Project Mission group.

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 by Hope Publishing Co. The music for "Holy, Holy, Holy" is by John Sherer © 1997.

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