



*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of The United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for January 9, 2022, 10:30am

Welcome to Online Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are with us today.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“We planted seeds of righteousness in little paper cups and put them in the window to grow into flowers. Just as the seeds needed sunshine and water, we, who were children, needed righteousness rules. If we followed the rules, we would get a star.” - Ann Weems, *Putting Amazing Back in Grace*

CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The March of the Magi*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

One: Let us worship God!

INVOCATION

Pastor Donna Cassity

OPENING HYMN: *We Three Kings*

Hymn provided on the next page

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

THE GOSPEL: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.*KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. *with Refrain**John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891**In unison*

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse 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, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on 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.



MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

SERMON: *Everyday Grace*

Pastor Donna Cassity

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BAPTISMS

Pastor: As you may recall the promises of your baptism—made either by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians, remember who you are and whose you are. You are a child of the living God and belong to God. If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day you would like to start the journey toward spiritual commitment to Christ. Let me know and we will celebrate your baptism here with you. As you remember your baptisms and the promises to follow Jesus Christ, take the water before you and touch it with your fingers and make the sign of the cross.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let all God's people everywhere say, **"I am God's beloved! Amen!"**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CALL TO OFFERTORY

MUSICAL OFFERING: *The Present*

D. Kouri & R. Reid
Center Church Quartet

DOXOLOGY: *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

The musical score is written for a four-part quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The lyrics are: "O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on "A-men".

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Gracious God, Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

CLOSING HYMN: *As With Gladness, Those of Old*

tune: DIX
Hymn provided on the next page

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: *On This Day, Earth Shall Ring*

POSTLUDE: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

arr. G. Martin

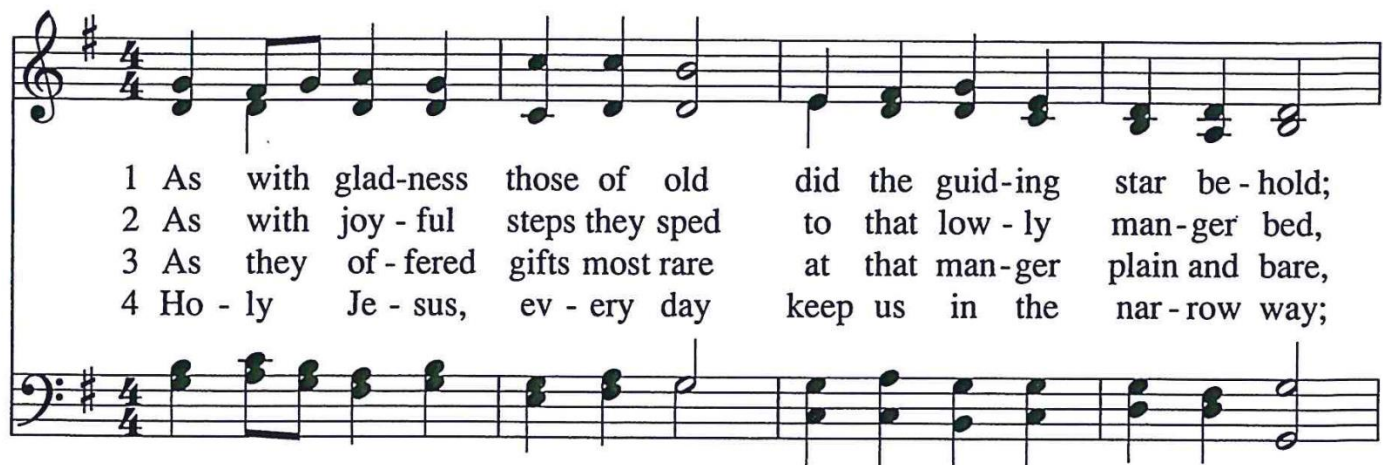
Our thanks to everyone who created today's service. Go in peace!

As with Gladness Those of Old

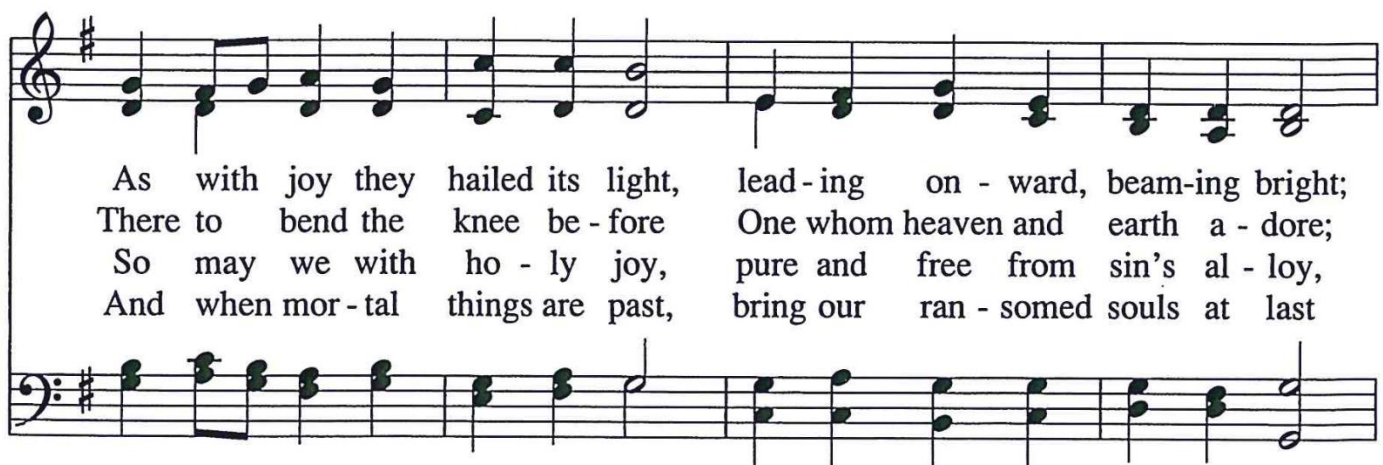
159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

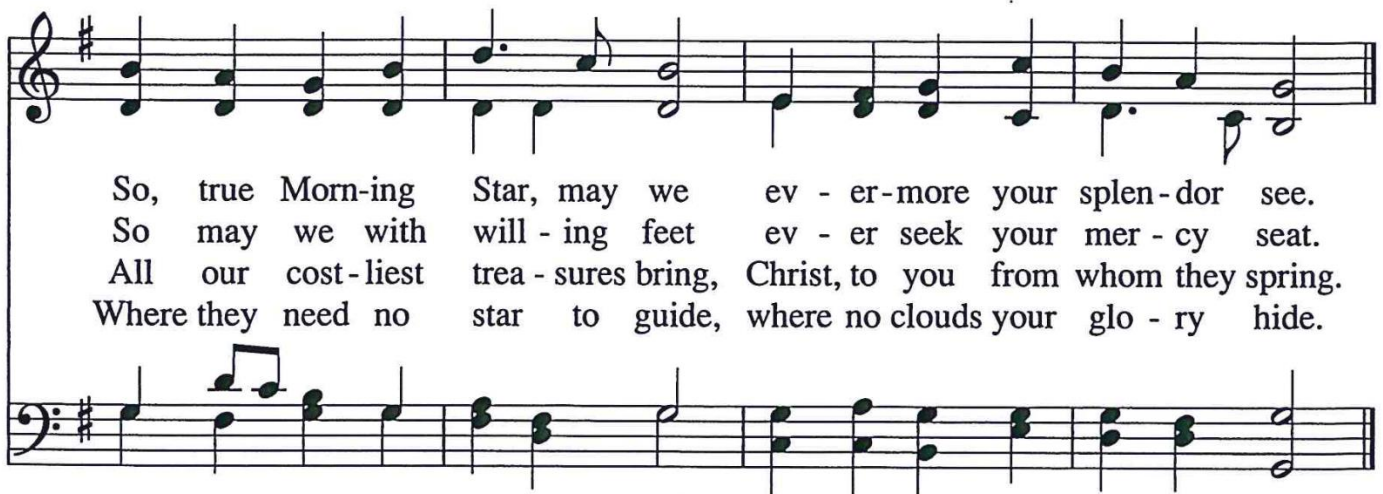
Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those 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 that man-ger plain 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 One whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

Center Church News & Announcements

Subscribe to our E-News newsletter for up-to-date news and happenings at Center

Church: <https://centerchurchhartford.org/>
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OzymYij/CenterChurch>

And, don't forget to follow us on FB!



THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Library Hours by Appointment

P 860.249.5631 F 860.246.3915 www.centerchurchhartford.org

Bridge Senior Pastor: The Reverend Donna Cassity (ext. 202)

***If you'd like to meet with Pastor Donna,
please schedule a time by calling Emily
in the office at 860-249-5631 ext. 200***

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Coordinator for Justice & Faith Formation Ministries: Dr. Eric Hearst (ext 209)

Church Office Manager: Emily McKenna (ext. 200)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton Sunday

Meals Program Coordinator: Carrie Howe (ext 205)

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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Would you like to learn more about Center Church? Email us at info@cchartford.org

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and physical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a **DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES** will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake. **TEXT ALERTS** To receive text alerts regarding church activities and cancellations, please text the word CENTER to (860) 300-3697. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)

FACEBOOK LIVE We livestream our worship services on Facebook each week, and your presence here constitutes your permission for your image to be shown. If you prefer not to be seen, speak with the minister or whoever is operating the phone up front to determine where a good seat might be to avoid the camera. Our viewership is growing and we are excited to welcome a congregation in cyberspace!

Church Information for When Our Buildings Are Open

ON STREET PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays. The church is maintaining our relationship with the Traveler's Garage which is temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Stay tuned as we partner with other garages in the area.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeast corner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, children will remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up. Church School is not held during the Summer.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

CURRENT SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES Announcements regarding Adult Education classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH E-NEWS** is available on our church website. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact us at info@cchartford.org / 860-249-5631