

# OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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January 8, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord

10:30 a.m.

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

**Gathering Music**

Brian, John, and Paul

**Welcome**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Prelude**

*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*

Susan Brown

**\*Call to Worship**

Lisa Thompson

Leader: We seek you like the Magi.

**People: Gifts ready, destination unknown.**

Leader: We ask the advice of the powerful.

**People: But they know not the way.**

Leader: Only by the stars and dreams can we discern you.

**People: Vulnerable and poor, we kneel before you.**

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

**All: We rise reoriented and chart a new course.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*The First Nowell*

No. 147

**\*Prayer for the Day (unison)**

Lisa Thompson

**Interrupt our lives, O God, with stars we cannot refuse to see. Set before us today those life-changing possibilities which will send us on better paths than we have known. Go with us as we explore the mysteries of Christ. Fill us with awe and wonder, and joy and confidence, with generosity and praise. Reveal to us in new ways the promises of the gospel, that we may be bold to proclaim good news by the way we live. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Oak Hill Community

**God who would lead us in new ways we confess we like the way things are. Even if we are on the receiving end of trouble, we'd rather have you tell us to endure than to change ourselves or to change our world. Change is difficult. It requires practice, and we don't like to fail. And we know your way will present many opportunities to fail in the eyes of the world, but also, we fear, in your eyes as well. Free us this morning from slothful inaction and perfectionistic reactions that we may arise in the strength of love, freely offered and freely received. Amen.**

*Time for silent prayers of confession.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Peace**

Oak Hill Community

**Time for Growing Disciples**

Rev. Wanda Lawry

**Installation of Members of the Session**

**Presentation of Elders:** Ms. Moderator, on behalf of the congregation, I present Millie Crittenden, Jeff Dahl, Matt Hanify, Don Stanford, and Lisa Thompson to be installed as elders.

**Prayer**

**Constitutional Questions**

## Congregational Affirmation

Elder: Do we, members of Oak Hill, accept Millie, Jeff, Matt, Don, and Lisa as elders of this church, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**Response: We do!**

Elder: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

**Response: We do!**

## Prayer of Installation

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	No. 150
<b>First Scripture Reading</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6	Lisa Thompson
<b>Second Scripture Reading</b>	Matthew 2:1-12	Rev. Wanda Lawry
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>The Adventure of a Lifetime</i>	Rev. Wanda Lawry
<b>Meditation</b>	<i>You Are My King</i>	Susan Brown
<b>Offering</b>	<i>You can make an offering online at <a href="http://www.oakhillpcusa.org">www.oakhillpcusa.org</a>, place it in the plate on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or mail your check to the church.</i>	Oak Hill Community

### \*Response

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.**

### The Lord's Supper

Oak Hill Community

#### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### Prayers of the People

Oak Hill Community

#### The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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.**

#### Words of Institution

#### Sharing the Meal

#### Prayer After Communion

**God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us. Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly.**

**May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with the saints before us. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*We Three Kings*

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Rev. Wanda Lawry

No. 151

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Susan Brown

**First Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

***People: Thanks be to God!***

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*Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more information and updates: [www.oakhillpcusa.org](http://www.oakhillpcusa.org).*

# 147 The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.  
 MUSIC: English carol; *Sandys' Christmas Carols*, 1833

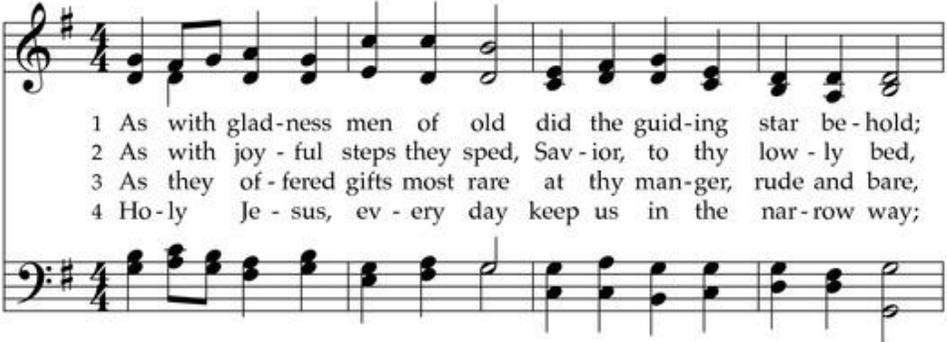
THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 Refrain

Refrain

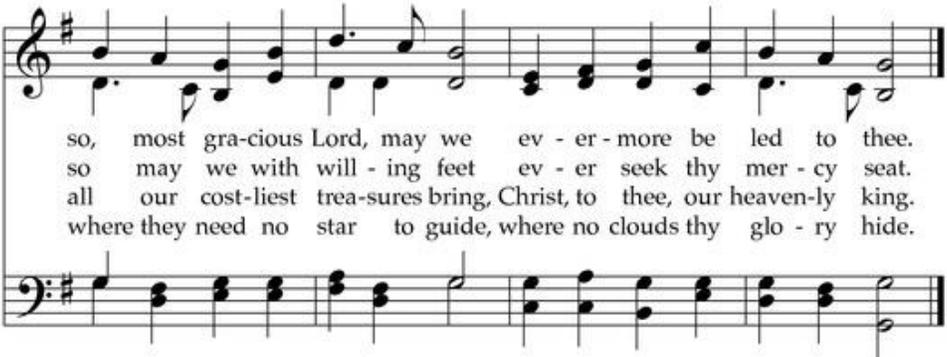
## As with Gladness Men of Old 150



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

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX  
7.7.7.7.7

# 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.