

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 7, 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

From Heaven Above

Susan Brown

***Call to Worship**

Matt Hanify

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**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

No. 744

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

Matt Hanify

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

Anthem

One Small Child

Donna Cook, soloist

Ordination and Installation of Members of the Session

Presentation of Elders: Ms. Moderator, on behalf of the congregation, I present Sarah Gibson and Bob Ream to be ordained and installed as elders, and Toby Eckert, Sandy Kay, and Josh Smith, to be installed as elders.

Prayer

Constitutional Questions

Congregational Affirmation

Elder: Do we, members of Oak Hill, accept Sarah, Bob, Toby, Sandy and Josh 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

Hymn	<i>Sing of God Made Manifest</i>	No. 156
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	Rev. Wanda Lawry
Sermon	<i>Wonder and Joy</i>	Rev. Wanda Lawry
Meditation	<i>Love Has Come</i>	Susan Brown
Offering	<i>You can make an offering online at www.oakhillpcusa.org, 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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The pastors will continue in prayer....)

Sanctus (No. 556)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Rev. Wanda Lawry

*Closing Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 151

Benediction

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Susan Brown

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

²In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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!

Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more information and updates: www.oakhillpcusa.org.


744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey,
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

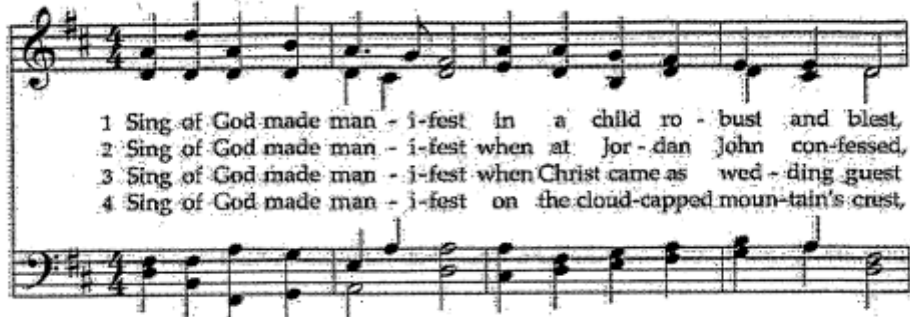


Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

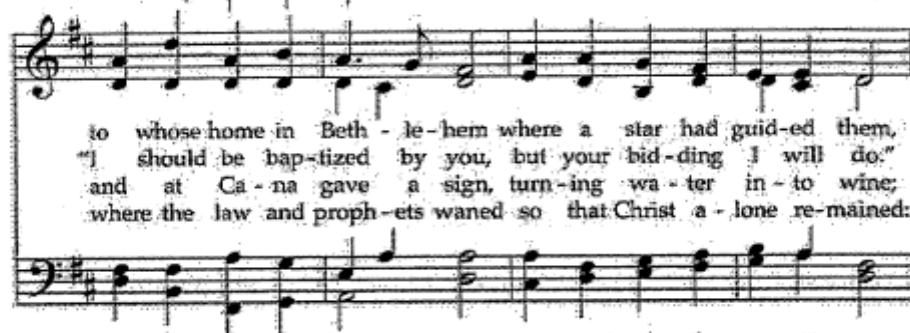
TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
 SM
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)

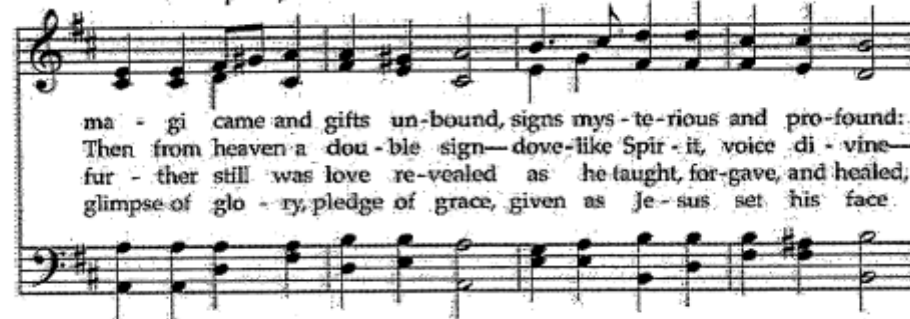
Sing of God Made Manifest 156



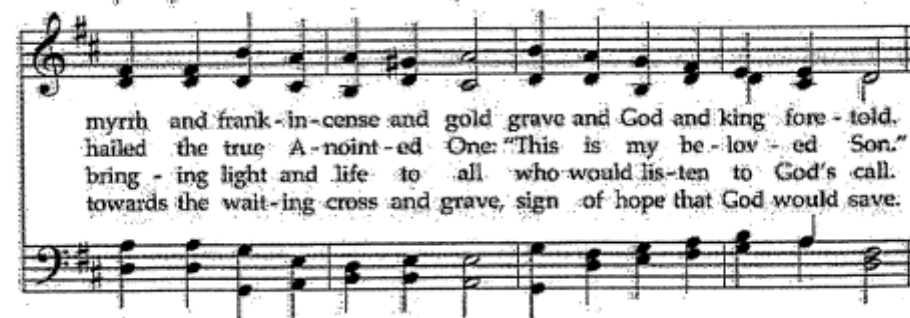
1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crust,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face.



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

TEXT: Carl F. Daw Jr., 1990
 MUSIC: Jakob Hiltze, 1678; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach
 Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SALZBURG
 7.7.7.0

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.