



Day of Epiphany: the Magi  
January 2, 2022

## GATHERING

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Prelude

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Dale Wood

### Opening Prayer

#### Call to Worship — based on Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Let us praise the Lord together.

**The sun shall no longer be our light by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,**

for the Lord will be our light,

and our God will be our glory.

**The Lord will be our everlasting light,  
and our days of sorrow will end.**

Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

### Hymn #150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

## CONFESSING

### Call to Confession

#### Prayers of Confession

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,  
**have mercy on us, Father.**

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,  
**let your grace consume us, O God.**

When the wars around us are of no concern,  
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action,  
**move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

**We are but dust without your love.**

Remove all barriers that divide us,

**and let there be no obstacle to our  
love for you and for one another.**

Hear our prayers...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

Affirmation of Faith — 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.**

\*Passing of the Peace

### LISTENING

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn #151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

[*refrain*] O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [*refrain*]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [*refrain*]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [*refrain*]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [*refrain*]

Scripture — Ephesians 3:1-12

Interlude

Scripture — Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

**Follow the Light**

Sacrament of Communion

\*Hymn #152

*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noon-day light?

'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";  
and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys  
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

**DEPARTING**

\*Benediction

\*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.**

Postlude

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**Information & Announcements**

**Welcome to our guests!**

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at [admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org).

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Betty Barlow; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark; Janet Kelly; Jewell James

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Joel Jones

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson)

**Church-Wide Bingo Night!**

The Northminster youth will be hosting Bingo Night Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00. Come ready for a great night of fun, prizes and laughs. Donations from this event will help fund our youth's annual trip to Montreat.

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News

SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Barbara Fatkin; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh;

Melissa McDougald; Jinny McDuffie; Ray Mosely; Michael Napier; Minor Vernon; Genny Whitaker

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate SANDRA SMITH, Music Director

KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

**Office hours this week:** Monday - Thursday 8:30-1:00