



We are a Bible-based, English-speaking, international, interdenominational, ecumenical, friendly and welcoming community.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*10 January 2021 – First Sunday after Epiphany – at 12 Noon
VCC Online Service*



WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Meditation

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father

Stephanie Seefeldt

Children of the Heavenly Father
Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth

God His own doth tend and nourish
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them

Though He giveth or He taketh
God His children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

Greeting/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

• #172 *We Three Kings*

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

Refrain (*after 1 & 5 only*)

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

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

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God on high.

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

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12 (NIV) The Magi Visit the Messiah

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”^[b]”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 2:1](#) Traditionally *wise men*
- b. [Matthew 2:6](#) Micah 5:2,4

Responsive Psalm

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NIV) - The Glory of Zion

1. "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- 2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- 3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
- 5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
- 6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

YouTube

Home By Another Way

Those magic men the Magi, some people call them wise or Oriental, even kings.
Well anyway, those guys, they visited with Jesus, they sure enjoyed their stay.
Then warned in a dream of King Herod's scheme, they went home by another way.
Yes, they went home by another way, home by another way.
Maybe me and you can be wise guys too and go home by another way.
We can make it another way, safe home as they used to say.
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high and go home another way.

Steer clear of royal welcomes, avoid a big to-do.
A king who would slaughter the innocents will not cut a deal for you.
He really, really wants those presents, he'll comb your camel's fur
Until his boys announce they've found trace amounts of your frankincense, gold and myrrh.
Time to go home by another way, home by another way.
You have to figure the Gods, saying play the odds, and go home by another way.
We can make it another way, safe home as they used to say.
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high and go home another way.

Home is where they want you now,
You can more or less assume that you'll be welcome in the end.
Mustn't let King Herod haunt you so or fantasize his features when you're looking at a friend.
Well it pleasures me to be here and to sing this song tonight,
They tell me that life is a miracle and I figured that they're right.
But Herod's always out there, he's got our cards on file.
It's a lead pipe cinch, if we give an inch, old Herod likes to take a mile.
It's best to go home by another way, home by another way.
We got this far to a lucky star, but tomorrow is another day.
We can make it another way, safe home as they used to say.
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high and go home another way.

Sermon  **Me And You
Can Be Wise Guys, Too** **Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

WE RESPOND IN THANKS AND PRAYER

• # 166 – *Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime*

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender Babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round,
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:

3. 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.

4. O children of the forest free,
the kin of Manitou,
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.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering

O Brother Man, Fold To Thy Heart Thy Brother

YouTube

Doxology

• *Spoken*

Announcements / Sharing

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH BLESSING

- ***Sing Of God Made Manifest***

YouTube

- **Blessing / Commissioning**

- **#312 Amen**

Congregational Amen

- Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Piętak