

January 2, 2022

Order of Worship

*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The First Nowell

Setting by Wilbur Held

Candlelighting

Call to Worship

Leader: The Magi had a dream.

**People: They dreamed of a Messiah. They dreamed of just rulers.
They dreamed of a new day for all people.**

Leader: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

**People: They journeyed to unknown places. They followed a star.
They walked for days to get to Jesus.**

Leader: So may we be like the Magi,

**People: May our dreams inspire action. May we worship the one true
God.**

*Hymn #147

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Call to Confession

Let us enter into the new year with a clean slate. Let us pray our confession and walk in God's grace.

Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

O God, you have spoken to men and women of old through dreams and visions, yet we confess that we seek to rely on reason and tradition alone. We confess that we do not trust that you are still speaking, and we confess not trusting ourselves in the work of discerning your present voice. Forgive us our uncertainties. Fill us with vision, lead us into the future, and enable us to grow toward a deeper understanding of your nature, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: You have found favor with God and the Lord is with you. Live therefore in rejoicing in faith and leaning into the new life that has been granted all of you through Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church

*Passing of the Peace

Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon

“Arise, Shine, and Persevere”

Offering

Offertory

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Bob Burroughs

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication (**unison**)

Wise and Holy One, we fancy ourselves wise on this day, for we come bearing gifts for our Savior. The wise ones brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. We bring time, talent, and treasure to bless you and your ministry. Glory to you, O Lord!

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion (**unison**)

God of blazing light, you shattered our darkness, scattering the fears that bind us, and setting us free to live as your children. Give us courage and conviction, that we may joyfully turn and follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light that shines through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn #151

We Three Kings

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]

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on Angels We Have Heard on High

Richard Elliot

Worship Leaders:

Liturgist:	Elder Lori Hirce
Ushers:	Team C
Zoom Host:	Jim Wright
Hymn Leadership:	Bing and Barbara Prestridge
Bell Choir:	Rich and Nancy Vodhanel, Heather Palframan and Marcello Velame
Organ:	Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth and Marcello Velame
Video Editing:	Rich Vodhanel
Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening

On January 9th, as we recall the baptism of our Lord, you too will be invited to remember and reaffirm your identity as a child included in God's covenant via the waters of baptism. Especially when we don't have frequent baptisms to celebrate, we can grow forgetful of and distant from this claim God has made on our lives: that we are God's people, washed clean of sin and raised from death to life. We invite you come worship on January 9th and reconnect with the grace of the baptismal waters.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 30th, 2022, following worship for the purpose of receiving the annual report and 2022 budget, electing church officers, and approving the pastor's terms of call. The deadline for submitting reports is January 20.

“Reflections On What We Believe”

“And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning. The dream does not end with a manger. The dream ends with God's promised day. So until all God's children are home, we will follow the Magi's lead—walking, seeking, and looking up.”

Rev. Sarah Are, *Founding Creative Director of A Sanctified Art, and Associate Pastor at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas.*