

# First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Worship Bulletin January 2, 2022

## Welcome

*Rev. Tom Elson*

## Call to Worship

One: O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

**All: The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.**

One: Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay  
homage.

**All: We, too, come to the manger, seeking the infant King.**

One: Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.

**All: God's Light of love is shining upon us. Let us worship.**

## Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn king

Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn king

Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn king

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In his temple shall appear

Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn king

Angels from the Realms of Glory  
Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery  
CCLI Song # 31669 © Public Domain

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Rev. Tom Elson*

We could offer welcome,  
but we often pass judgment.

We could offer action,  
but we often hold silence.

We could offer advocacy,  
but we often cling to comfort.

We could choose God,  
but we often choose ourselves.

Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we hold back in the midst of your abundant generosity.

Open our hearts and hands to choose you, to choose community, to choose love.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the good news.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: The Story to Remember After Christmas**

*Grace So*

### **Apostles' Creed**

*Rev. Tom Elson*

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.

### **Great Prayer**

*Rev. Paul Yeager*

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.

### **Call to Give**

*David Wagner*

### **Song: 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 your splendor see

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore  
So with ever quickening pace  
Run to seek your throne of grace

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger crude and bare  
So may we this holy day  
drawn to you without delay  
All our costliest treasures bring  
Christ to you 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 your glory hide

In the heavenly city bright  
None shall need created light  
You its light its joy its crown  
You its sun which goes not down  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluias to our king

As with Gladness Men of Old  
William Chatterton Dix  
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**Benediction**  
*Grace So*