



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



**Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Epiphany
Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:30am**

**Rev. Rob Metcalf
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir**

2.

*Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.

Congregational responses, singing and readings in unison are indicated in bold text.

Welcome and Acknowledgements

***Processional Hymn** As with Gladness Men of Old

VU #81 (verses 1, 2, 3 and 5)

**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 splendour see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**

**In the heavenly country 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
hallelujah to our King.**

***Gathering Prayer**

***Introit** Lo, a Light Shines Down

E. Daley

Lo, a light shines down to guide us
 where thy saints and angels are!
 Now we know thy love beside us,
 for our eyes have seen the star.
 (Trad. Welsh)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing Peace

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 (Common English Bible)

Reader: Sue Metcalf

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honour him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
 because from you will come one who governs,
 who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honour him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

4.

Anthem

Guiding Star
Senior Choir Men

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

Kings from distant lands were trav'ling,
searching for the newborn Child.
In the sky a star was guiding through the night,
shining bright, leading to the Saviour.

*Guiding star, moving onward through the darkness of the night,
light the way, shed your glory through the night,
shining bright, leading to the Saviour.*

When they came to David's City,
there they found the infant King.
Then to show their love, they gave him gifts of gold,
gifts of myrrh, frankincense and worship. *R*
(K. Lee Scott)

Reflection

The Wise Men

Rev. Rob Metcalf

***Hymn**

What Child is This

VU #74

**What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent word is pleading. *R***

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. *R***

Introduction of the Offering

Offertory Anthem Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th c. French tune
harmonized by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen. *R*

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
your eve-time song, ye singers. *R*
(George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1848-1934)

*Presentation of the Offering

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
To serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

6. **for thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn** In the Bleak Midwinter

VU #55

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

***Blessing**

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

**May God's love surround you,
may God's wisdom guide you,
may God's light shine upon you,
until we meet again.**

Postlude

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