

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Dieterich Buxtehude
March of the Magi Kings Théodore Dubois
Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany Maurice Duruflé

Introit

“We Have Seen His Star” Richard Proulx
We have seen his star in the east, and we have come to adore the Lord.

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *In a refugee child playing under a star,*

Women: in an anonymous young man requesting baptism,

Men: in a wandering preacher refreshed
by water from a woman’s hand—

All: God was waiting to be recognized and known,
to transform seeing and change the world.

Leader: *In the routine smallness of everyday life,*

Women: in the jagged discomfort of struggle and transition,

Men: in the timeless grace of hospitality
and the gifts of bread and wine—

All: God is waiting to be recognized and known,
to transform our seeing and change our world.

Let us worship God.

**Stand as you are able.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Epiphany God, waiting to be seen and known—forgive us for those times when submersion in unthinking routine has dulled our perception of your presence and thwarted its life-changing possibilities. You wait to comfort and restore—so forgive us for those moments when pride or fear has restricted our openness to your Presence and impeded its healing possibilities. You wait to challenge and transform—so forgive us for those occasions when preoccupation with comfort and familiarity has stifled our response to your peace and subverted its radical possibilities. Epiphany God—bright Morning Star—may we see your light shining upon us now and open ourselves to embrace its possibilities, that by its illumination we might find different ways by which to journey onwards. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Anthem

“The Morning Star” Virgil Thomson
How splendid shines the morning star, God’s gracious light from darkness far, the root of Jesses blessed. Thou David’s Son of Jacob’s stem; my bridegroom, king, and wondrous lamb; thou hast my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly, O thou handsome, precious ransom, full of graces, set, and kept in heavenly places.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 147:12–20 Old Testament, page 550

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18 New Testament, page 86

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Making Way for Light” Hardy H. Kim

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 109 “Blest Be the God of Israel”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
 Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
 and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Prayer Response

“Amen” Dale Wood

Offertory Anthem

“Die Drei Könige” Peter Cornelius
*Three kings came from an eastern land; a bright star led them to Jordan’s land,
and when they came into Judah, the three asked where the newborn king should be.
They brought gold, myrrh, and frankincense to lay before his innocence.
The star shone high in the firmament, and to a stable the three kings went.
When they looked on that child so sweet, the three kings bended low at his feet.
They brought a gift that was lovelier than gold, frankincense, or myrrh.
O you, child of God, take the pilgrim’s way that the three kings took, do the same.
The star of mercy, the star of love, shall light your path to the Lord above.
Leave frankincense, myrrh, and gold; give him your heart to have and to hold.
Give him your heart.*

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (*unison*)

Emmanuel, bright Morning Star,
Give us the perseverance and courage to seek out
and approach you, wherever you are to be found.
Grant us the vision and understanding to see
and recognize you, whenever we might meet you.
Gift us the grace and generosity to respond freely and fully,
whatever you might ask of us—even these gifts we bring before you now.
So may our loving and living become, in their turn,
places of epiphany where you can be recognized and known,
and the transforming life of your Kingdom is unleashed. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 134 “Joy to the World”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright. Niels Gade

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Jeffrey Doane, Hardy H. Kim

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Brett Potts, soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Chelsie Coren, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Lesley Conzelman on behalf of the Adult Education Committee.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "UNWEAVINGS," created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts handbells waiting to be played in the Fourth Church chancel. The cover quote is from Henri Nouwen's book *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*.

CHELISIE COREN IS A THIRD YEAR STUDENT at the University of Chicago and is participating in a church music training program sponsored by Fourth Presbyterian Church and the University of Chicago.

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Matt Helms Associate Pastor
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Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

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