

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

Church Office: 610-868-4441

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



January 8, 2023

First Sunday after Epiphany

“Moving Forward United in Faith”

“Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on Life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.”

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 8, 2023

10:45 AM

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany. As per the Consistory decision, masks are optional here at Bethany.

**(* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" ...J. Hopkins, R. Graham
Piano /Organ Duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have come to praise God, who has done wonderful things among us.

P: In Jesus, the Christ, God has shown us love, giving light for our darkness, and strength for all our days.

L: Sing praise to God's name, bow before God in prayer, open your hearts to God's saving word.

P: Arise, shine, for God's light has come!

*HYMN: #233 We Three Kings of Orient Are

*CALL TO CONFESSION- *PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(unison)

Too often, God, we are people of the dark. We choose to live in darkness and move under the cover of darkness. We believe that our deeds are secret and that we can do deeds that adversely affect the lives of others without our complicity being known. O Lord, by Your Light dispel the darkness of our sins and lead us to that

place of wholeness and renewal. Hear now our silent, petitions for Your mercy and grant us Your forgiveness.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #236 As with Gladness vs.1**

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.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 60: 1-6

*Matthew 2: 1-12

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "What Can I Give Him?"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "O Worship the Lord ...arr. J. Stanley Sheppard Chancel Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #196 In the Bleak Midwinter vs.4**

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of life and love, Savior of all, receive with these gifts our gratitude for Your guidance, penitence for our pride and dedication to Your service in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER – PASTORAL PRAYER - THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (We will celebrate Communion by Intinction today)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

God of Glory and Light, You nourish us with Your Word who is the Bread of Life. We thank You for sending to the world Jesus, the light of the World. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that through us the light of your glory may shine. Consecrate us anew to be Your witnesses in word and in deed. Amen.

***HYMN: #235 Brightest and Best of the Stars**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #229 The First Noel vs. 3**

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. Noel, Noel, Noel,
Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: in honor of those who work behind the scenes. Your Church

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

New sign-up sheets for Flowers and Bulletins are up.

Scriptures

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6 NRSV

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

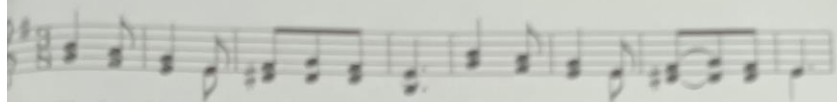
Matthew 2: 1 – 12 NRSV

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

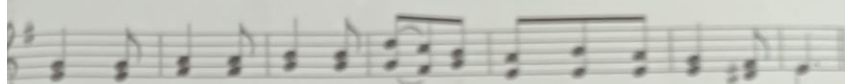
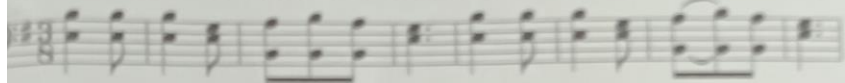
⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

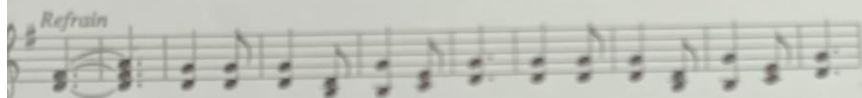
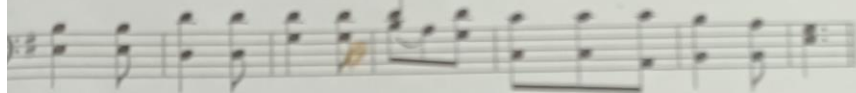
We Three Kings of Orient Are 233



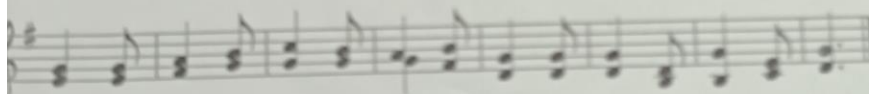
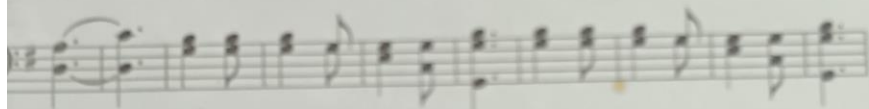
- 1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
- 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
- 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty night,
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
- 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



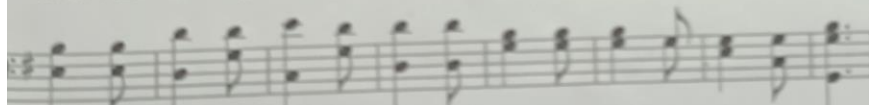
field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



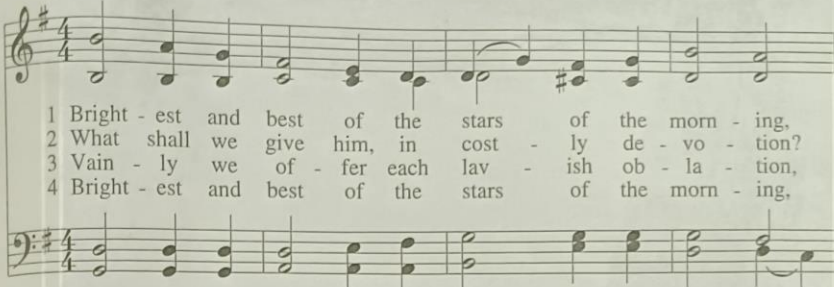
O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



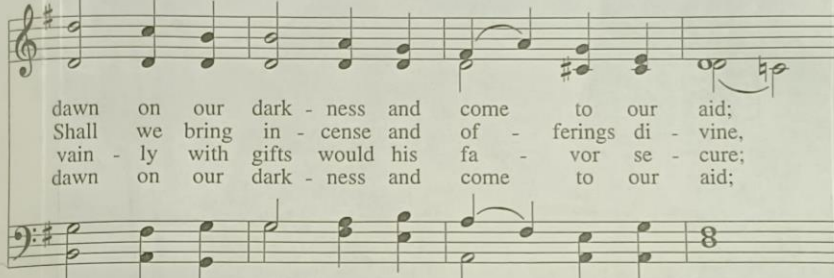
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.



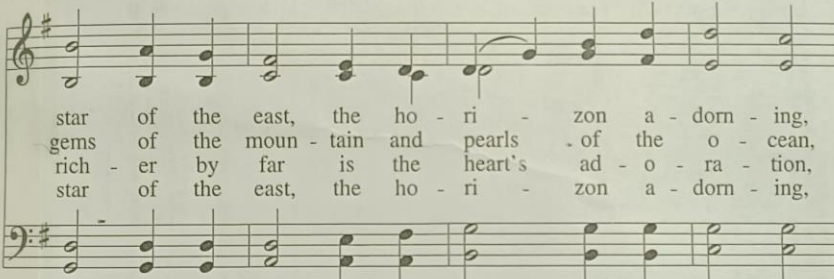
Brightest and Best of the Stars 235



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 3 Vain - ly we of - fer each lav - ish ob - la - tion,
 4 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and come to our aid;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - ferings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and come to our aid;



star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid!

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 Epiphany Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the arrival of the Magi as well as Holy Communion!

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ Home vs. College Hill

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

6 PM After Christmas Choir Party in Fellowship Hall
Potluck with \$2.00 Exchange Gift!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary and stay after to undecorate the Sanctuary

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

After Christmas Choir Party

The after Christmas Choir Party will be held on Wed. January 11th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Please see the signup sheet in the choir room. Don't forget your \$2 exchange gift!