



First Presbyterian Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI



Adoration of the Magi

Monforte Altarpiece, c. 1470

by Hugo van der Goes (c. 1430/144-1482)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 7, 2024

Epiphany

11:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The time to begin preparing for worship is no later than the sounding of the chimes.

*The congregation is invited to stand.

**Seating of those arriving after worship has begun.

CHIMING

PRELUDE

I Saw Three Ships

arr. David Lasky

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:4-6

Dr. Andrew Chaney

One: 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 on their nurses' arms.

All: **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.**

One: A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

All: **They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD."**

**HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, thank you for the glorious mystery of your incarnation, essential to the Atonement, and therefore, our salvation. We confess that we do not fully grasp the depth of your sacrifice. We have not felt its impact upon our lives and live without being fully transformed by your love. We have neglected the power of your incarnation has upon us. We humbly seek your mercy...

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

PROCLAIM THE WORD

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Elder Clint Guenther

ANTHEM

Heavenly Light

Kopylow/arr. Willhousky

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O
 Light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!
 Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation! All those whose
 feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar! Oh, shine from above,
 Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray! Thou
 our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise thee!

THE WORD READ

Matthew 2:1-12

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Dr. Andrew Chaney

"Wisemen Teach the Gospel Is Better Than Religion"

HYMN 145

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

THE WORD ENACTED

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

As you serve the bread, say, "This is the body of Christ broken for you."

As you serve the cup, say, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you."

Time for Meditation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Raymond Haan

*Doxology

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer

Elder Dallas Baker

*HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

*CHARGE, BENEDICTION, AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

March of the Kings

arr. Carl Simone

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse 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 nigh;
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 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most 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.



Refrain



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

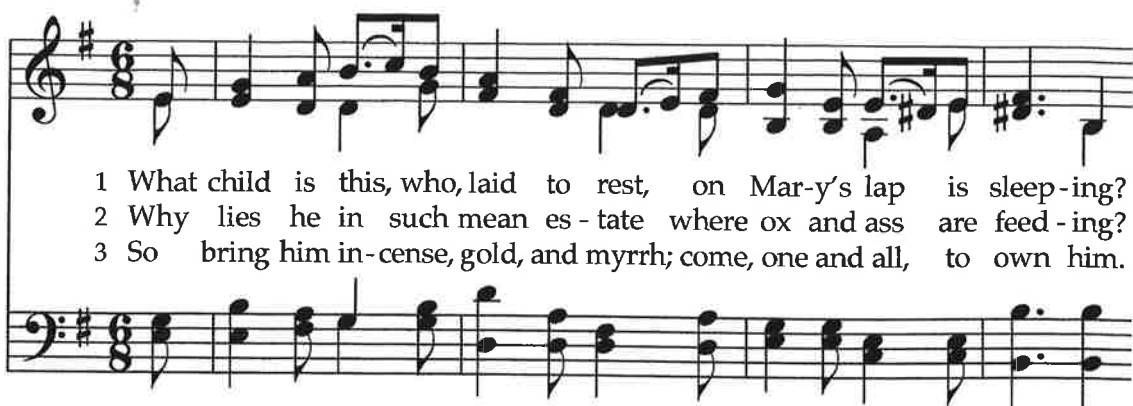


west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

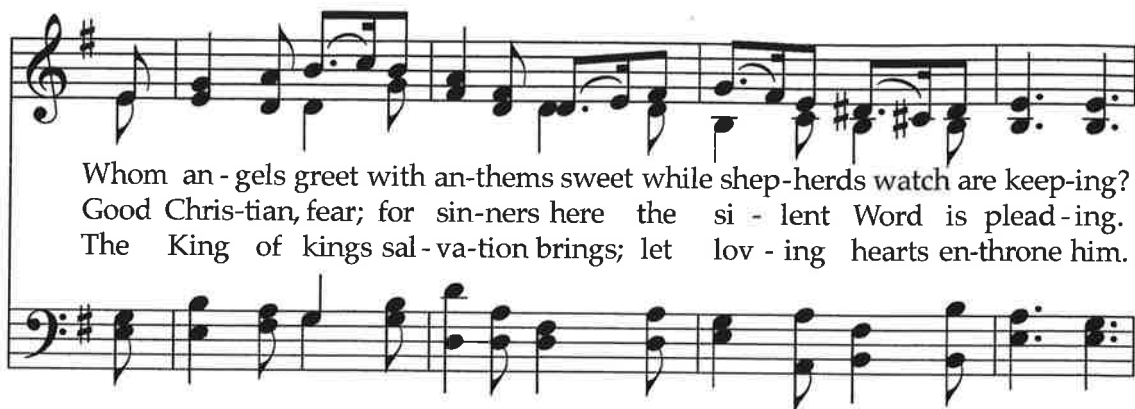


Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

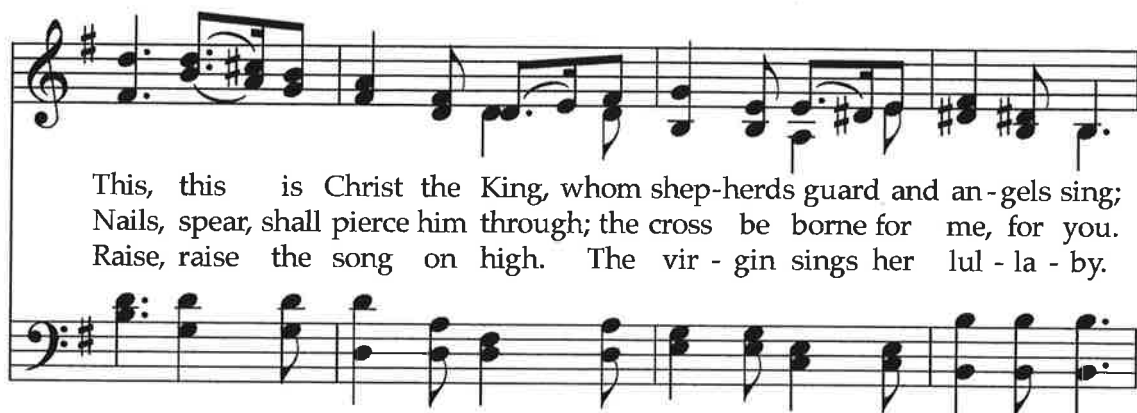
What Child Is This




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



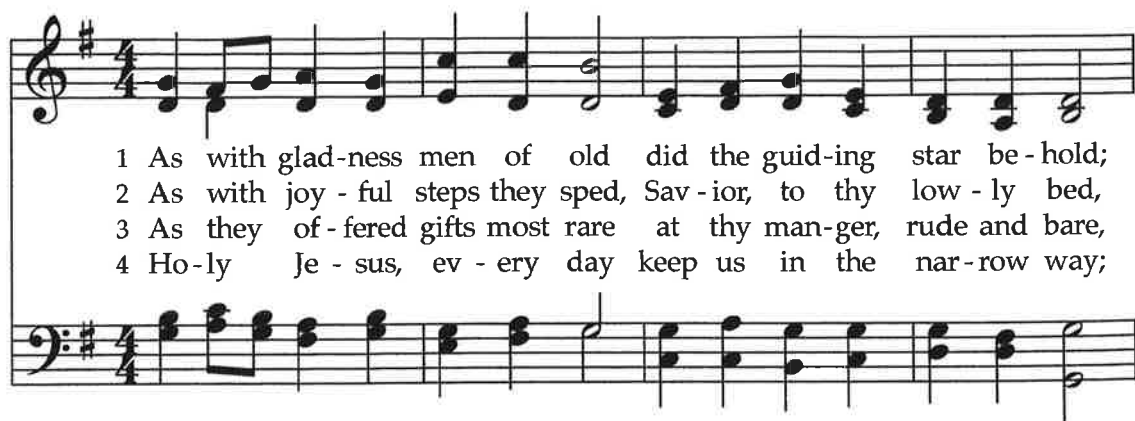
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



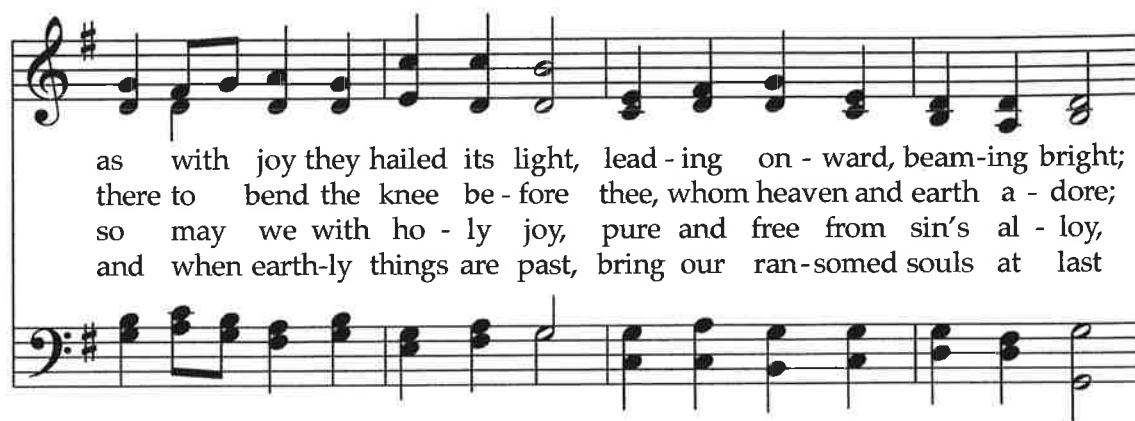
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

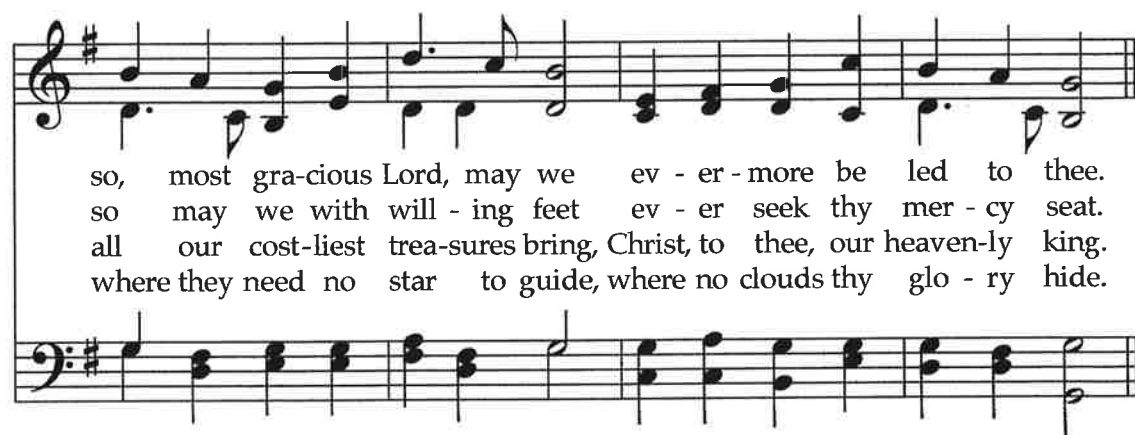
150 As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

WELCOME TO THIS HOUR OF WORSHIP

We hope that you will be made to feel welcome here and that you will find this service helpful to you in your Christian life. If you are a visitor, please know that we are glad for your presence here. Please help us to know you better by filling out the Friendship Register and then pass it to the person seated next to you. Take note with whom you are worshipping with and greet them warmly! Welcome one another to the Lord's House! Should you be interested in joining this congregation, please check the appropriate box on the Friendship Register and we will be in touch with you, or you may call the church office at (662) 453-4680. The Session meets periodically at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday to receive new members into our congregation.

A Nursery Is Available for children 3 years and younger in Room 103 in the Van Arnold Education Building located directly across the street from the Sanctuary.

Accessibility: Large print Bibles, hymnals, and hearing devices are available in the back of the Sanctuary. At the end of the service, please return these to the back tables.

Cell Phones and Photography: In order to maintain reverence during the service, please silence all cell phones and other communication devices and refrain from unauthorized photography or recordings.

Internet Broadcast: To watch the service live on a computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to www.firstgreenwood.net/video. Worship bulletins are available under the "Worship" tab on the website, as are archived services. You may also access the worship service live by going to the church's Facebook page.

Community Food Pantry: Please bring canned food and place it in the Food Pantry Collection Box near the handicap entrance.

Hospital Visitation: Please call the church office to let us know whether you are in the hospital or know of any church member in the hospital, since the hospital here no longer lists names of hospitalized persons on a public register. **Elder Miller King** is the visitation elder for **January**.

Ushers for Today: Alston Avritt, Christine Chaney, Ashley Farmer, Robert Cole, Christopher Pickens, and John Stewart III

Security Detail: Randy Tackett and Tommie Williams

Children's Church for 4- & 5-year-olds with Alan and Margie Barger

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Communion Assignments
11:00 am Worship/Communion

Monday, January 8, 2024

12:00 pm PW Noon Circle
4:30 pm Christian Ed. Committee
5:00 pm Youth Committee
5:30 pm Building & Grounds Comm.

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

8:30 am Women's Bible Study
12:00 pm Kirkin' Committee
5:30 pm FPK Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

2:30 pm Liturgy
5:30 pm S.A.L.T. Dinner
6:00 pm S.A.L.T. Classes
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 11, 2024

6:45 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast
5:30 pm Administrative Committee
Newsletter Information Deadline

Friday, January 12, 2024

5:30 pm Youth Depart for Polar
Thang at Twin Lakes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany in Western Christianity commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served as part of worship today. "The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity."

Our thanks to Jane Crump and Allison Pillow for preparing our communion elements for this morning.

PW Noon Circle meets Monday, January 8, at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

Committee Meetings, Monday, January 8: Christian Education at 4:30 p.m., Youth Committee at 5:00 p.m., and Building and Grounds at 5:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study resumes Tuesday, January 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the Jim and Ina Barrett Memorial Library.

Kirkin' Committee meets Tuesday, January 9, at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

FPK Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 9, at 5:30 p.m.

S. A. L. T. (Serving and Learning Together), our bi-annual Wednesday evening program with dinner, resumes this Wednesday, January 10, and continues through February 7. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. with Classes for adults, youth, and children, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday, January 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast, Thursday, January 11, at 6:45 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Dr. Chaney will be teaching. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.

Administrative Committee meets Thursday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Winter Retreat: The youth are attending Polar Thang Winter Retreat at Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence, MS, March 12 - 14. They will meet Friday at 5:30 pm to depart and return around lunchtime on Sunday.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

300 Main Street • P. O. Box 485
Greenwood, Mississippi 38935
Phone (662) 453-4680
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Website: www.firstgreenwood.net
Email: fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net

Senior Pastor	Dr. Andrew Chaney
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. Rusty Douglas
Director of Music & Organist	Rev. Ray Smithee
Director of Youth Ministries	Whitney Avritt
Director of Christian Education	Kelli Stainback
Kindergarten Director	Caroline Strawbridge
Financial Secretary	Annette McDonald
Administrative Assistant	Denise Gardner
Custodian	Charles Covington
Custodian	Lonnie Love
Clerk of Session	Richard Oakes
Board of Deacons	Rebekah Arant
Church Treasurer	Mark Vemer
Presbyterian Women	Mary Clyde King
Endowment Committee	Mike Sturdivant III

Foreign Missionaries/Missions We Support:

Shapoor Ahmadi, Operation Promise
Liverpool, England Persian Church & Outreach Ministries
Bill Holland, Ahava Ministries
Bill and Bette Bryant Crisis Nursery, Lusaka, Zambia
Cistern Project of the Yucatan
Amos Yam, San Pablo Theological Seminary, Merida, Yucatan
Potter and Clay Ministries of Haiti,
Jordan Walker (MSU), Rebecca Gasson (Ole Miss)
Presbyterian Church of Aleppo, Turkey
Ivan Rusyn, Ukraine Evangelical Seminary

SESSION

CLASS OF 2024

Jim Bowen
Sherry Clark
Todd Fincher
Mary Haley Flautt
Pat Gulledege
Cathy Jennings

CLASS OF 2025

Susan Beckham
Taylor Calhoun
Chuck Conditt
Jimmy Lott
Moss Melton
Richard Oakes

CLASS OF 2026

Dallas Baker
Alan Barger
Miller King
Reese Pillow
John Stewart III
Ryan Strawbridge

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2024

Lina Elfert
Lynn Riales
Randy Tackett

CLASS OF 2025

Rebekah Arant
Karla Bowen
Zach Luke

CLASS OF 2026

Christie Beattie
Emmie Daugherty
Sam Pigott

