

Northminster Presbyterian Church

1660 Kessler Blvd. East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220

317-251-9489 www.northminster-indy.org

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 25, 2022 – 7:00p.m.

Welcome

L leader

R reader

C congregation

Prelude Abana alathi fi ssama (*The Lord's Prayer*)

Laila Constantine
arr. Greg Scheer
Krista Wright, Soprano

Behold that Star

African-American spiritual
arr. Harry Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)
Elisabeth Kleinsmith, Soprano

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder,
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

There was no room found in the Inn, It is the star of Bethlehem.
For Him who was born free from sin, It is the star of Bethlehem.
The wise men came on from the East, It is the star of Bethlehem.
To worship Him the Prince of Peace, It is the star of Bethlehem.

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder,
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

A song broke forth upon the night, It is the star of Bethlehem.
From angel hosts all robed in white; It is the star of Bethlehem.

“Glory to God world without end,” It is the star of Bethlehem.
“And peace on earth, good will to men,” It is the star of Bethlehem.

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder,
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem

***Call to Worship**

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L Brothers and sisters, we are united today with fellow believers in the four corners of the world as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. We do this with worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Our texts are inspired by the visit of the Magi to the new-born King, as described in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: “*We observed his star in the East, and have come to pay him homage.*” Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too.

Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing that God can dispel our darkness with his light. As we pray today for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Saviour.

L Glory be to you Father Almighty, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship him just as the Magi did. We offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

C **Unite us with one another as we come from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, old and young, men and women to bow down before you and offer you homage, our heavenly king. Amen.**

***Hymn No. 71**

O Worship the King

LYONS

Prayer of Praise and Confession

L We glorify you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from darkness and arranged signs to mark sacred times, and days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

C **We glorify you, O Lord.**

L We praise you for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion but sent your Son to brighten our darkness and be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

C We praise you, O Lord.

L We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit. You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

C We worship you, O Lord.

L We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

C We thank you, O Lord.

L May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred darkness, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins and saying:

C We confess before you that we have turned away from your ways and disobeyed your ordinances. We have disfigured your good creation and squandered its resources through our consumerist practices. We have polluted your rivers and seas and poisoned your air and soil and contributed to the extinction of many species.

(Silence)

C We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have allowed our own needs and desires to prevail over our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted the seeds of distrust towards the other.

(Silence)

C We have separated people based on ethnicity, religion and gender and we have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance.

(Silence)

L Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all the people, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world.

(Silence)

L Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

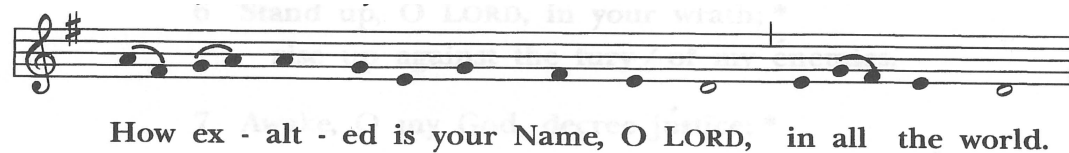
C Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices

Trisagion**Holy God**

McNeil Robinson



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Psalm 8ancient plainsong
John Wright, Cantor*(please sing Refrain on cue from leader)***Prayer for Illumination** Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
(please sing Refrain on cue from leader)

YISRAEL V'ORATIA

Refrain

Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). Each staff has two lines of lyrics. The first staff is labeled "Refrain". The second staff has a "7" above the final measure. The lyrics are: "To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!". The third and fourth staves have the same lyrics: "To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!". The melody is a simple, stepwise line.

First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Anthem

Through Love to Light

Elaine Hagenberg
(born 1980)
Choir

Through love to light! Oh, wonderful the way
That leads from darkness to the perfect day!
From darkness and from sorrow of the night
To morning that comes singing o'er the sea.
Through love to light! Through light, O God, to thee,
Who art the love of love, the eternal light of light!

(poem: After-Song, by Richard W. Gilder)

Second Reading

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Sally Ann Morris

The musical notation is for a Gospel Acclamation in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has three measures, each with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,'. The first and third measures are labeled 'Minister/Cantor' and the middle measure is labeled 'All'. The second staff has three measures, each with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The first and third measures are labeled 'All' and the middle measure is labeled 'Minister/Cantor'. The melody is simple, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon

Hymn No. 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one 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.**

Sharing Christ's Light

*A piece of dark blue cloth is hung to evoke the night sky, on which a large star is placed.
Paper stars are made available for the worshippers, who are invited to come forward and add
their stars to the cloth.*

L A star led the Magi to Christ. Today this star points to the presence of Christ,
who has been revealed to us and whose light shines on us.
As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today,
adding our own stars to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of
Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that
leads others to know Christ.

Anthem

Brightest and Best

from Southern Harmony, 1835
arr. Shawn Kirchner
Choir

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator
down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
shining low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Savior of all.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and off'rings divine.
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Prayers of Intercession

L With faith and confidence, we come in prayer, before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

R The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries.

We pray today for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition:

Lord we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

C O Lord, hear our prayer

R The early years of the Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod.

We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible:

Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us.

C O Lord, hear our prayer

R After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt.

We pray for all the refugees and uprooted people in this world:

Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

C O Lord, hear our prayer

R The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religions in worship of the holy child.

We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions:

Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

C O Lord, hear our prayer

R The Magi returned to their home by a different way.

We pray for our churches in this changing world:

Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

C O Lord, hear our prayer

R When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy.

Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray - -

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.**

***Hymn No. 314** Christ Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

***Sending and Blessing**

L Go now and live as children of light.

C For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

L Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

C Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

L Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter
(born 1945)
Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
to shine upon you and be gracious,
and be gracious, unto you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
to shine upon you and be gracious,

and be gracious, unto you.

The Lord lift up the light
of his countenance upon you
The Lord lift up the light
of his countenance upon you and give you peace, Amen.

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