

WELCOME to  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Spartanburg, SC

First Presbyterian Church is a community of believers committed to  
“Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed.”



# EPIPHANY

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

JANUARY 3, 2021

11:00AM SANCTUARY

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*NOEL JOYEUX*

Gordon Young

WELCOME AND INVITATION

INTROIT

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

Dix

### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

**All: the manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.**

One: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

**All: yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.**

One: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

**All: we offer ourselves and what we have.**

One: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover, worship, and serve.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad!**

✦ HYMN 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

*Hymn printed at end of bulletin*

✦ *Please Stand*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God with us,  
we confess that we have not embraced your love.  
You have searched for us, and yet we hide from you.  
You have lavished us with blessings,  
and yet we treasure earthly things.  
Forgive us, loving God.  
Shine on us with your grace and glory  
and reveal to us once more  
your promise of good news of great joy,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Arise, for you are forgiven! Shine, for you are loved!  
**All: May God's glory and grace shine upon us with forgiveness and love.**  
One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

## ✠ RESPONSE

IN DULCI JUBILO

*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!*

## ✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: Let us greet each other as we share the peace of Christ.

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Come Down, O Love Divine*

DOWN AMPNEY

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

SERMON

*The Very Best Gifts*

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 147

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Hymn printed at end of bulletin  
(Verses 3, 4, 5, and 6)*

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*What Can I Give Him?*

Harold Darke

✦ DOXOLOGY

REGENT SQUARE

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung Responsively)

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: ***And also with you.***

One: *Lift up, lift up your hearts.*

All: ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

One: *Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

#### 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.

### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J. S. Bach

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠ HYMN 145

*What Child Is This*  
*Hymn printed at end of bulletin*

GREENSLEEVES

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠ CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

Wayne Wold

*The Flowers in the Sanctuary*  
*are given to the Glory of God*  
*and in loving memory of*  
*Henry Sanders*  
*by his family.*

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

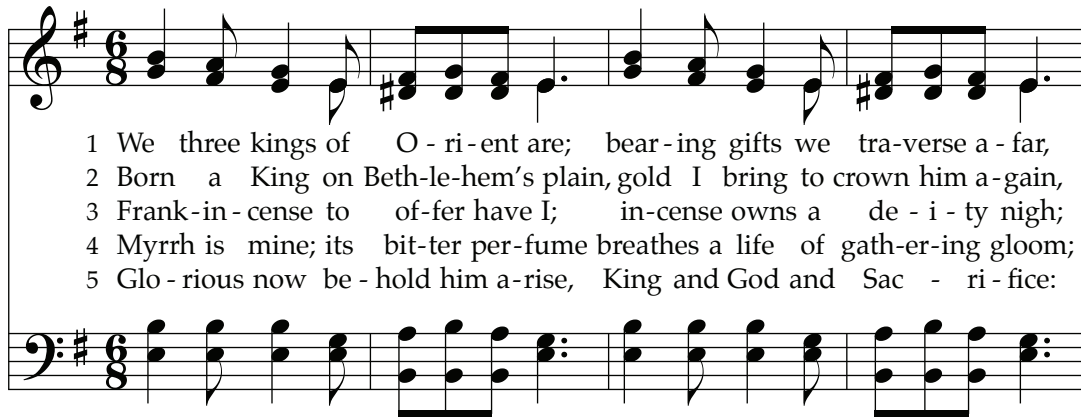
Rev. Joanne R. Hull  
Dr. J. Lewis Johnson  
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.  
Rev. Leslie A. Lang  
Mrs. Holly M. Bannan

Holt Andrews, Director  
Marcia Andrews, Organist

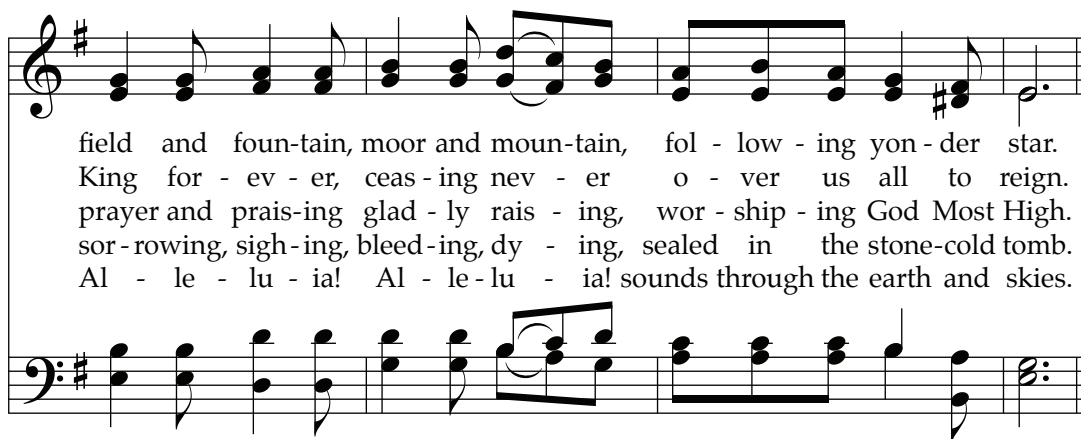
### Additional Musicians

Valerie MacPhail  
Lisa Cunningham  
Reel Robertson  
Paul MacPhail

# 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.

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

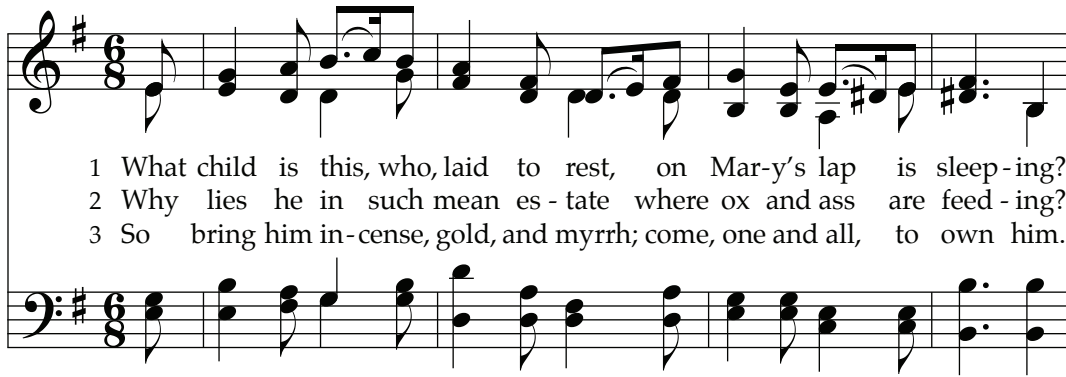
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*  
 Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,  
 JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

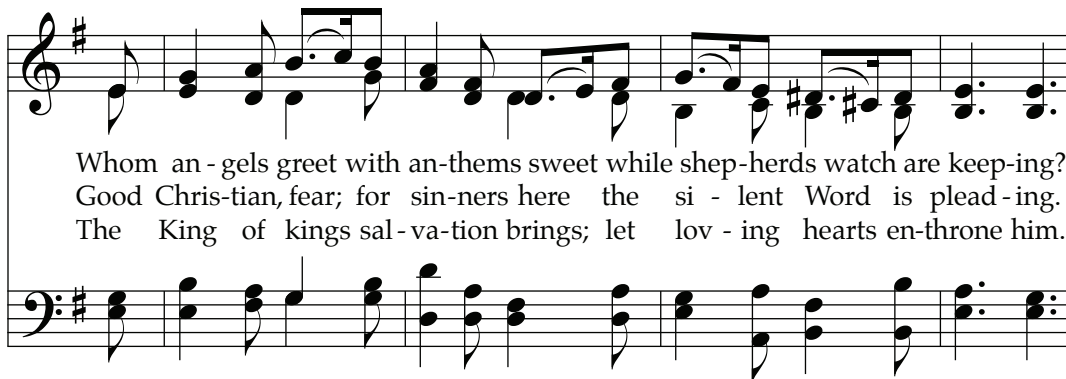
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

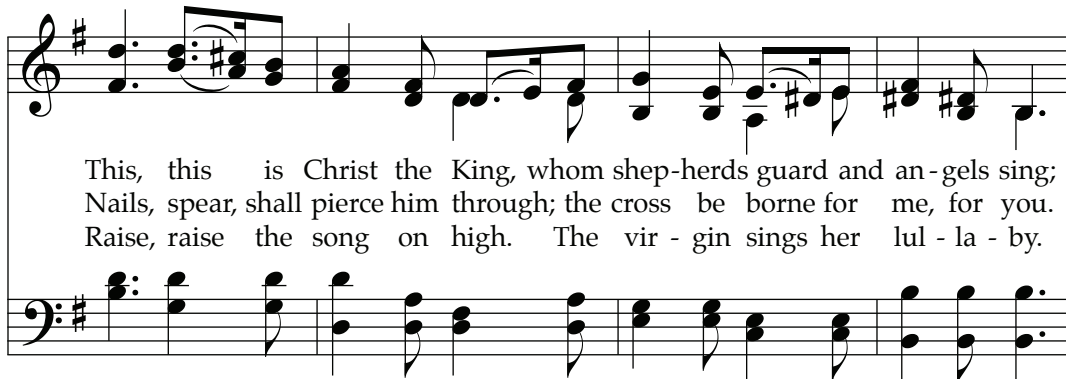
## What Child Is This



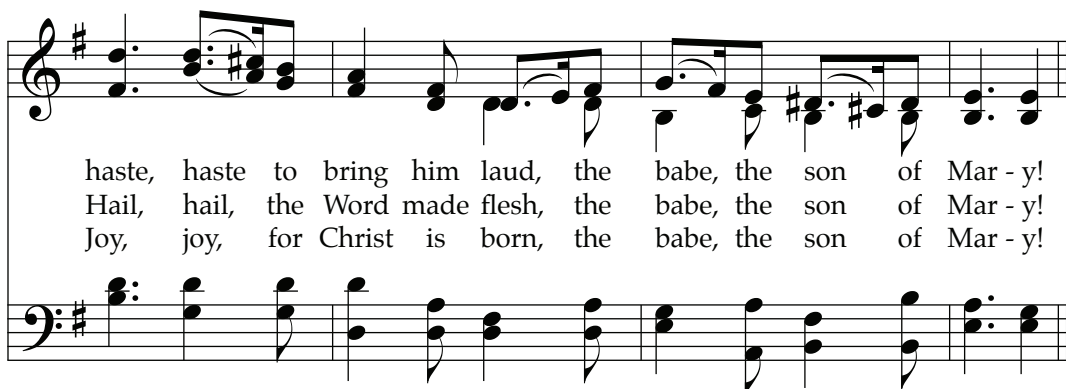
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



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.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871  
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES  
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

**COMMUNION TODAY:** If you wish to participate in Communion during Online Worship this Sunday, we ask that you prepare your own elements ahead of time (crackers, a slice of bread, or any type of bread you might have on hand) and a sip of grape juice or wine. You can partake, as directed, during the service, so that even while we are apart, we can enjoy this transcendent, yet very earthly, communion together.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CNC:** The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members from the congregation to replace members who will rotate off the CNC. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please submit your nomination(s) here: [www.fpcspartanburg.org/events/recommendation-for-cnc](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org/events/recommendation-for-cnc).

**ECHOES** (Elder Caregivers Helping Others and Encouraging Self) Caring for a loved one who is aging or sick is a special ministry. If you are engaged in this and would appreciate Christian encouragement, please join Rev. Ansley Page and Parish Nurse Beth Cecil on **Thursday, January 14 at 7:00pm via Zoom**. From the comfort of your home, you can enjoy this time of devotion, prayer, and sharing with folks in similar circumstance. Let your church family help you in this sacred work. Contact Joanie Shackleton for the Zoom link ([jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org)).

**WITNESS SEASON 2021** will be here soon (February)! We are looking for volunteers for the Witness Season Committee to help coordinate our response and prayerful giving to Ministry of Hope Lesotho, a mission we have supported for a long time ([www.ministryofhopelesotho.org](http://www.ministryofhopelesotho.org)). We need men, women, and youth who want to help for two months on this project! If you would like to volunteer to be part of this committee, please reach out to Pastor Leslie at [llang@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:llang@fpcspartanburg.org) or 2021 Witness Season Chair, Holly Hoenig at [hollycaustin@hotmail.com](mailto:hollycaustin@hotmail.com).

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?** Check out [www.fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder).

**GIVEN THE CURRENT SERIOUS SPIKE IN COVID-19** case numbers nationally, in South Carolina, and in Spartanburg County, and given the prospect of further increases following the Christmas and New Year holidays, we feel that the only prudent course of action for First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, is to alter our worship schedule in the following way: For a period of three Sundays following Christmas Eve services, to include January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will worship via Livestream only (both MorningSong and Traditional Sanctuary services). After discussion with the Health Cabinet and church staff, and with the support of the Worship Committee, these changes were approved.

### CHECK IN TO WORSHIP!

**If you are a church member**, download the *ShelbyNext | Membership App*. After you download and launch the app, enter “firstpres.shelbynextchms.com” for the domain and your username and password. Instructions on how to get your username and password: [fpcspartanburg.org/discover/member-login](http://fpcspartanburg.org/discover/member-login). Once you have the app downloaded, each Sunday when you arrive at church, open your ShelbyNext App and click “Check In” (“allow” it to know your location). Then click on “who” you are checking in, choose the worship service, then “Done.”

**If you would prefer not to download this app or you are one of our precious visitors**, please check in at [fpcspartanburg.org/worship/worship-guestbook](http://fpcspartanburg.org/worship/worship-guestbook).



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

393 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
864/583-4531  
[www.fpcspartanburg.org](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org)