

January 9, 2022

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

4 p.m.

Festal Evensong by Candlelight

Page numbers refer to the red Book of Common Prayer.

Hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982.

Prelude: The star proclaims the King is here

F. Peeters

The service begins in semi-darkness.

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

An Opening Reading

Revelation 21:23-25

The city of God has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
The nations will walk by its light,
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
Its gates will never be shut by day –
and there will be no night there.

Opening prayer: Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas

**O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature:**

**Grant that we may share the divine life of him
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
your Son Jesus Christ;**

**who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn #109: The first Nowell the angel did say (vss. 1-5)

The First

Nowell

**The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

***Refrain:* Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

Refrain

**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.**

Refrain

**This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.**

Refrain

**Then entered in those wise-men three full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

Refrain

- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia; *
may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long.
- 16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth, growing thick even on the hilltops; *
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth.
- 17 May his Name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures; *
may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Concluding Gloria Patri: Glory to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians:

3:5-10

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

The Lector concludes: The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #124 What star is this, with beams so bright (vss. 1-3)

Puer nobis

**What star is this, with beams so bright, more beautiful than the noon-day light?
It shines to herald forth the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.**

**True spake the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.**

**The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light,
and leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way.

Reader: The word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #128 We three kings of Orient are

Three Kings of Orient

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

***Refrain:* O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign.**

Refrain

**Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High.**

Refrain

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

Refrain

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.**

Refrain

The Apostles’ Creed

BCP, p. 120

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

BCP, p. 121

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

Collect for the Epiphany – *prayed in unison*

BCP, p. 214

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the Presence of Christ

BCP, p. 124

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past;
be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope,
that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread.
Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Intercession – “Keep watch...”

Office Anthem: Three Kings from Persian lands

G. Holst

The General Thanksgiving

BCP, p. 125

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Epiphany Blessing

Closing Hymn #119 As with gladness men of old (vss 1-3)

Dix

**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 be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed;
there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.**

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;

**so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ! To thee, our heavenly King.**

Dismissal: Let us bless the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Fugue in C ("Gigue" fugue) BuxWV 174

D. Buxtehude

In Today's Worship
Celebrant: The Rev. R. Harrison West
Music Director: Mark Sullivan