

(Sanctified Art Image for Epiphany Sunday)

Music streamed in today's service

Greensleeves - arr. Stanley Roper

We Three Kings - PH #143

We are People on a Journey - NCH #340 (vs 2, 3, 4)

Go tell it On the Mountain - NCH 154

In Dulci Jublio - JS Bach

Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

January 3, 2021

*Today's service will be recorded.*

Music licensed for streaming/podcast  
by OneLicense.

Pilgrim Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
January 3, 2021

Prelude Greensleeves arr. Stanley Roper

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash

Call to Worship

One: The Magi had a dream.

All: They dreamed of a Messiah. They dreamed of just rulers. They dreamed of a new day for all people.

One: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

All: They journeyed to unknown places. They followed a star. They walked for days to get to Jesus.

One: So may we be like the Magi,

All: May our dreams inspire action. May we worship the one true God. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of Love, O Eternity of mercy. Come, and be with us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within us and fire us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and unspoken, and make your Word come true in our flesh, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

# Opening Hymn    **We Three Kings** - Pilgrim Hymnal #143

## We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. with Refrain

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

1    We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

*[Refrain:]    Oh, star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light*

2    Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

*[Refrain]*

3    Frankincense to offer have I, Incense own a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship him, God on high.

*[Refrain]*

4    Myrrh is mine; it's bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom:  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*[Refrain]*

5    Glorious now behold him a rise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

*[Refrain]*

*In unison*

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 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, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, 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.

**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.

## Prayer of Illumination

God of the Milky Way,  
We, like the Magi, are walking toward you.  
One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.  
It is our very prayer to move your way.  
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.  
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.  
And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,  
Give us the will to persevere.  
We are walking toward you, O God.  
So like the parent that throws open the door,  
Open the door to us through this text.  
Amen.

## Scripture Readings

### **Isaiah 60:1-6**

60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

60:2 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.

60:3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

60:4 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 on their nurses' arms.

60:5 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.

60:6 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**

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2:2 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.”

2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

2:6 ‘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.’ ”

2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

## **Matthew 2:1-12 - Continued**

2:8 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.”

2:9 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.

2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

2:11 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.

2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Passing the Peace

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Sarah Fuller

Offertory

Max Evrard

*If you would like to support Pilgrim Church, you may mail in a check or arrange electronic giving by contacting Dave McClave. Additionally, we now accept donations using a credit card or PayPal on our website under the tab Learning, Growing and Caring and select Giving. Thank you for your support.*

Doxology (#515 Red)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

or

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



## Prayer of Dedication

Sarah Fuller

God of glory, we have been illumined by the splendor of your presence and enlightened by the word of your grace, We see and have become radiant with your love. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts for service in the world. May we be beacons of love and justice, shining your light on the poor and needy, the victims of oppression and violence, and all living in places in need of your star of love and hope. Amen.

# Communion Hymn We are People on a Journey - New Century Hymnal #340 (vs 2, 3, 4)

2 God has sent the invitation to the humble and the poor.

*[Refrain:] Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.*

3 This is bread that God provides us,  
nourishing our unity.

*[Refrain]*

4 Christ is ever present with us  
to unite all us in love.

*[Refrain]*

## Somos pueblo que camina

(We Are People on a Journey)

340

*"Misa Popular Nicaragüense," 20th century; alt.  
English version, Carolyn Jennings, 1993*

John 6:32-35

1 So-mos pue-blo que ca - mi - na por la sen - da del do - lor.  
2 Los hu - mil-des y los po - bres in - vi - ta - dos son de Dios.  
1 We are peo-ple on a jour - ney; pain is with us all the way.  
2 God has sent the in - vi - ta - tion to the hum-ble and the poor.

*Estrillo (Refrain)*

A - cu - da-mos ju - bi - lo - sos a la san - ta co - mu - nión.  
Joy - ful - ly we come to - geth - er at the ho - ly feast of God.

3 Es-te pan que Dios nos brin-da 3 This is bread that God pro-vides us,  
a-li-men-ta nues-tra u-nión. (*Estrillo*) nour-ish-ing our u-ni-ty. (*Refrain*)

4 Cris-to a-quí se ha-ce pre-sen-te; 4 Christ is ev-er pres-ent with us  
al reu-nir-nos es su a-mor. (*Estrillo*) to u-nite us all in love. (*Refrain*)

# The Sacrament of Communion

## The Service of Communion

*Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate. The sacrament is a gift from God; there are no requirements of age or church membership.*

## Invitation

This is Holy Communion for a Journey Sunday. It is the Second Sunday after Christmas, the Sunday three days after New Year, and three days before Epiphany, and, in the old song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” it is the ninth day – the day when the “gift” is nine people dancing.

So come to this table of ... one star for following,  
bread and cup for sharing,  
three days of New Year  
at least four still-traveling camels,  
and many, many hopes for the world.

Come to this table, even if you want  
to be laying everything down  
because you are so weary of being fearful,  
isolated or essential to everyone but you.

Come to this table if you are swimming  
in Zoom, virtual education,  
financial risk, or grief.

Come to this table if you milked  
all the joy from Christmas –  
enough to carry you into 2021 ...  
or not nearly enough.

Come to this table,  
if you have stopped dancing,  
even though  
you are carrying many gifts,  
or you need to be healed  
by watching for the dance  
in snowflake, in friend or stranger,  
in the old story  
of another path home,  
and the warm bread and sweet cup  
shared right now.

Prayer of Confession

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father (Creator), 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.**

Prayer of Assurance

Communion Prayer

### **The Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we thank you that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away, this very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among all, and make a heart-music so that everyone can dance. Amen.

# Closing Hymn **Go tell it On the Mountain** - New Century Hymnal #154

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

[Refrain:]

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

[Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

[Refrain]

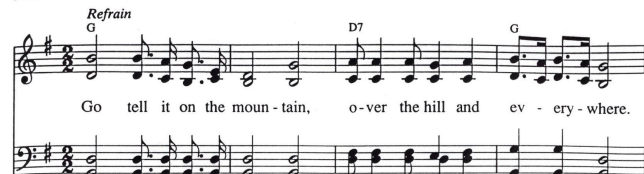
## Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

*African-American spiritual  
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907*

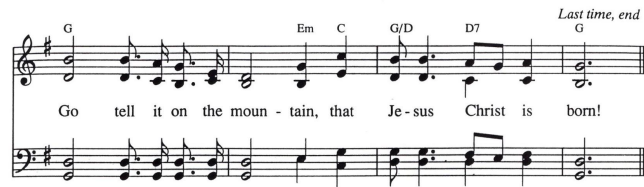
*Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7*

Refrain

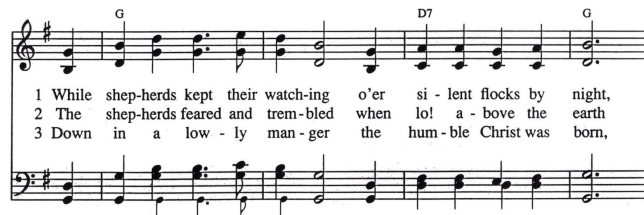


Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

Last time, end

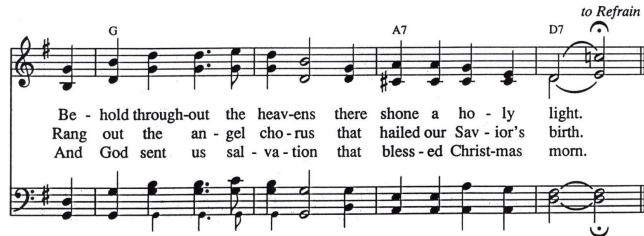


Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth  
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

to Refrain



Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.  
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

In Dulci Jublio

JS Bach

---

Source Notes: The Opening Prayer is by Arnold Kenseth. The Prayer of Dedication is by Jeffrey Nelson in *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*. The Communion Liturgy is adapted from Maren Tirabassi, All the other prayers today are by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) are part of Sanctified Art's Advent and Christmas 2020 materials. The artwork used in the bulletin is from the same package.