

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. -Micah 6:8



Worship Bulletin
Sunday, January 4th, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Worship

Liturgist, Evaristo Ramirez-Aguilar

Leader: God of the weary traveler,
our feet are dusty from the roads we've traveled
this past week,
this past year,
every day of our lives.

People: **We've followed your star here, looking for a glimmer of hope.
And now, after a long journey, we set our baggage down.
We have arrived.
We're here, and we're on holy ground.**

Leader: You may not show up where we expect you,
but we trust that you are here nevertheless.
Be known to us
in the hope of the star,
the peace of a baby snuggled in the manger,
the joy of arrival,
and Love that could not stay away.

People: **We are here. You are here.
And we are so very grateful.
We have come to worship you, the Living God!**

***Hymn #151 – *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (See back of bulletin)**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost.

(Time for silent prayer and confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing the Peace

Leader: God makes peace within us.

People: **Let us claim it.**

Leader: God makes peace between us.

People: **Let us share it.**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

Please share signs of peace (ex. a wave, handshake, or high five) with each other.

A Word for God's Children

Erica Russell

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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 road.

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol

A Moment for Silent Reflection

***Hymn #853 – *We Are Marching in the Light of God* (See back of bulletin)**

Offering our Lives to God: Star Words

When instructed to do so, please open the Star Word Envelope on your table.

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

To give electronically, please visit standrewboulder.org/giving

***Song of Dedication**

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, one and all to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #152 – *What Star is This, with Beams so Bright* (See back of bulletin)**

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our loving God, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

Words of Institution

Enjoying Communion Together

Just as the last supper - when Jesus instituted communion - was a full meal among friends, we will celebrate communion by enjoying a meal of tamales, rice, beans, and champurrado (Mexican hot chocolate). You are encouraged to go through the buffet line together and to wait until everyone at your table returns. Then say together "the body of Christ broken for us and the cup of salvation poured out for us." The meal is part of our worship service, and your goodbyes to each other at the end of the meal are the benediction.

***Stand as able**

Liturgy adapted from resources by Rev. Sarah Speed of A Sanctified Art. The Prayer of Confession is from Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH.

Special Music Provided by the Colorado Youth Mariachi Band.



“If there is one thing I can’t stand, it is when people disregard the spiritual use of herbs, metals, and the stars. For years, there has been a nasty practice of shaming indigenous practices, such as the usage of sage, when high church settings actively use incense in worship. We have come to a tension where anything that does not look like a particular type of Christian practice is perceived as pagan or satanic. For years, I have been reminding people that Jesus was gifted gold, frankincense, and myrrh by people who followed the stars to find him. That is the heart of my piece, *King Tingz*. I wanted to emphasize the sky and the importance of the stars, a reminder that this was essential to their witness. I wanted to bless each king with a different gift which is found in different places of their attire.”

—from the artist statement for “King Tingz” by Nicolette Faison

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.

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
 Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
 si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
 si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
 si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

St. Andrew At-A-Glance

- **January 4** - Youth Group
- **January 7** - Noon Prayer Service
- **January 8** – Women’s Crafts and Conversation, Serve Dinner to the Unhoused with Community Table
- **January 10** - Men’s Pancake Breakfast, HomeAhead Open Donation Hours
- **January 11** - Baptism of our Lord - Hybrid Worship, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Adult Education, Sunday School, Youth Group, Family Potluck
- **January 14** - Noon Prayer Service
- **January 17** - HomeAhead Open Donation Hours
- **January 18** - Hybrid Worship, Nursery, Sunday School, Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons, Youth Group
- **January 19** - Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Worship Leaders

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White is the liturgical color we use for Christmas Eve until after the Baptism of our Lord on January 11. White symbolizes glory, joy and light at the coming of our Savior to earth.