



THOSE
WHO *persevere*
DREAM
Epiphany

Our Worship of God

January 3, 2021

11:15 am

~ Epiphany Sunday ~

Pre-Service Music

Coventry Carol
We Three Kings
Colleen Ostercamp, *piano*

arr. Lee Evans

Welcome

Shelby Myers

Prelude

We Three Kings
Judy Elliott and Maria Trevor, *harp*

Call to Worship (responsive)

The Magi had a dream.

They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

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

They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

So may we be like the Magi,

May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

Hymn 181

As with Gladness Men of Old

*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 who 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.*

*Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.*

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 road.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Sharing Our Gifts

Song

Hope is Here

*There's never been a year when I've so needed
To see the season come around
To sing the sweet familiar carols
See the lights all over town*

*Cause I need to be reminded
In the darkness of these days
Our God is not so far away*

*Hope is here
Love chose to leave His throne
Hope is here
He made our world his home
There's an echo from the angels saying
Do not fear
Hope is here*

*May we always seek him like the wise men
Following that star
May the holy wonder of the story
Captive our hearts*

*Of how a tiny baby changed eternity
So let us remember and believe*

*Hope is here
Love chose to leave His throne
Hope is here
He made our world his home
There's an echo from the angels saying
Do not fear
Hope is here*

*Right where you're standing
Come empty-handed
Out of the darkness
There comes a light
The Father, the Spirit
The Son is alive*

*Out of the darkness
There comes a light
The Father, the Spirit
The Son is alive*

*Hope is here
Love chose to leave His throne
Hope is here
He made our world his home
There's an echo from the angels saying
Do not fear
Hope is here*

Message

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Those Who Dream Persevere

Hymn of Preparation #543

Christ Beside Me

*Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me—king of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me—never to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me—shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising—light of my life.*

*Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues telling of me;
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

*Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me—king of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me—never to part.*

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of starlight,
There has always been something holy about stars for us.
We wish on them.
We look for them.
We celebrate when we see them streaking across the sky on summer nights.
We map out their designs, and consider glimpses of the Milky Way holy
enough for bare feet.
There has always been something holy about stars.
We know that.
You know that.
The Magi must have known that.

So today we come to you in prayer, trusting that if you can paint
the stars in the sky,
Then surely you can hear us over the noise.
So first we pray for people wishing on stars:
We pray for those for whom 2020 was a year full of
hospital rooms and isolation.

We pray for those who lost love in 2020.

We pray for those who lost life in 2020.

**We pray for those who lost a job, a home, or a sense of hope in
2020.**

We pray for parents forced to homeschool children in 2020,

And for children who missed their friends in 2020.

We pray for the milestones canceled in 2020,

And for the breath that was stolen in 2020.

However, at the same time,

We also say a prayer of gratitude for all the stars
you have left for us this last year—

The signs and mile markers of hope on the horizon.

For example, we could not have survived without the
birthday parades and the sidewalk chalk.

And oh how we needed the slower schedule,
and the family around dinner tables.

We thank you for the gifts of technology,
backyard gardening, and sourdough bread.

We thank you for every variety of essential workers,
from grocery store clerks and teachers,
to internet technicians and doctors.

We thank you for the quiet that came with less
cars on the road and less planes in the sky.

We thank you for protesters demanding justice
and for leaders like the late John Lewis
who refused to give up on a broken system.

In so many ways, 2020 was a turbulent year,

and in so many ways, you were there,

leaving stars in the sky, painting hope on the horizon.

So today, in this new year, we ask that once more you would give us a sign.

Pour out a double portion of your Spirit
on this bread and cup, and on these star gifts,

So that these ordinary objects might provide us a glimpse of something more.

For like the Magi, we are seeking you.

Like the Magi, we are looking up.

Like the Magi, we just need a sign.

Guide our feet. Show up in the mundane and the extraordinary.

Be in the stars in the sky and in our everyday lives.

We are hopeful, O God. We are hopeful.

And so with the confidence of children wishing on stars,
We pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying,

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion

Song of Response

Follow You Anywhere

*You make it easy to love You
You are good and You are kind
You bring joy into my life
You make it easy to trust You
You have never left my side
You've been faithful ev'ry time*

*All I want is You Jesus
All I want is You*

*You are the refuge I run to
You are the fire that leads me through the night
I'll follow You anywhere
There's a million reasons to trust You
Nothing to fear for You are by my side
I'll follow You anywhere*

*Follow You anywhere oh
I'll follow You anywhere oh*

*O Jesus You came to my rescue
Took my place upon that cross
You redeemed what I had lost
Now my whole world revolving around You
You're the center of my life
You're the treasure You're the prize*

*All I want is You Jesus
All I want is You*

*You are the refuge I run to
You are the fire that leads me through the night
I'll follow You anywhere
There's a million reasons to trust You
Nothing to fear for You are by my side
I'll follow You anywhere*

*Follow You anywhere oh
I'll follow You anywhere oh*

*Wherever You lead me
Whatever it costs me
All I want is You
Jesus all I want is You
Wherever You lead me
Whatever it costs me
All I want is You
Jesus all I want is You
Wherever You lead me
Whatever it costs me
All I want is You
Jesus all I want is You*

*You are the refuge I run to
You are the fire that leads me through the night
I'll follow You anywhere
There's a million reasons to trust You*

*Nothing to fear for You are by my side
I'll follow You anywhere
Follow You anywhere oh
I'll follow You anywhere oh*

Follow You anywhere

Life of the Church

Benediction

Christmas is only the beginning.
The dream does not end with a manger.
The dream ends with God's promised day.
So until all God's children are home,
May we go, following the Magi's lead—
Walking, seeking, and looking up.

**May it be so, for those who dream persevere,
And we are those who dream. Amen.**

Postlude

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Raymond Haan

Worship Notes

As With Gladness Men of Old, Words: William C. Dix, c. 1858, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838.

Christ Beside Me, Words: Adapt. James Quinn, 1969, alt. : from St. Patrick's Breastplate. Music: Traditional Gaelic melody; arr. David Evans, 1927.

Follow You Anywhere, CCLI Song # 7123196, Brett Younker | Jason Ingram | Kristian Stanfill | Phil Wickham

Call to Worship and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Songs printed in bulletin by permission, CCLI #1515189 & OneLicense.net #A-707314.

Week at a Glance

Monday, January 4

Offices Closed for New Year Holiday

Tuesday, January 5

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

Wednesday, January 6

12:00 pm NO Zoom at Noon this week

6:30 pm NO Handbells Rehearsal this week

7:45 pm NO Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal this week

Sunday, January 10

10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study and Small Groups

Online Zoom Churchwide Bible Study

10:30 am Student Ministry Group online

11:15 Online Worship Service

Announcements

Visitors and Prayer Requests

If you are visiting with us online, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, let us know you are with us today by texting “guest” to 573-326-9490. If you are in need of prayer, text “prayer” to 573-326-9490 and Brittany, our Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation will connect with you.

Pledge Drive

It’s not too late to turn in a pledge card! You can go to our website at fbc-columbia.org for an online pledge card. Click on the link at the top of the page that says “Online Pledge Card 2021.”

Annual Business Meeting - January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting on January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom following the Sunday Online Service. If you’d like to visit with other members, we will begin the Zoom meeting 15 minutes early!

Financial Assistance for Those Affected by COVID-19

If you have found yourself in need of financial assistance in this disruptive time of a global pandemic, please reach out to any of our pastors (by phone or email) to notify us of your need. Please know that all such requests are confidential. We will get through this together!

Winter Bible Study

In January, we invite you to join us for Winter Bible Study via Zoom! This 6-week course is designed for people who want to dig deeper in their Bible study and grow in their understanding of scripture.

Dr. Hulitt Gloer will be leading the course entitled “Reading Mark’s Revolutionary Gospel.” Knowing what Jesus said and did has never been more important than in the days in which we are now living. The Gospel of Mark tells of Jesus’ revolutionary life and message and we will examine it together. The class is perfect for laity who want to study the Bible at a more scholarly level, but you do not have to be a scholar to join. The course is designed for any and all who desire a greater understanding of the Bible. The only prerequisite is a love for the Bible.

Dr. Hulitt Gloer is Emeritus Professor of Preaching and Christian Scriptures at Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University and taught at Truett when Pastors Michael and Carol McEntyre were students there.

The study will be held on Zoom on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. It will begin January 17 and run for 6 weeks. Contact the church office to register. Phone: 573-442-1149. Email: churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org