

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Second Sunday After Christmas Day/Epiphany (January 3, 2021)

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude Adagio from Concerto in F Major A. Vivaldi

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from UMC Discipleship Ministries)

Arise! Shine!

God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year!

Arise! Shine!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Arise! Shine!

God's light penetrates the darkness!

***Hymn** We Three Kings of Orient Are (insert, #151)

***Confession and Assurance of Grace**

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ who came into the world to save humanity. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Sung Response** *Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

Scripture Lessons Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem In the Bleak Midwinter Christina Rossetti, Gustav Holst

Sermon "The Dawning of the Collective Power of Good"

***Hymn** What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright (insert, #152, vv 1-2)

Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Litany Prayer

Leader: We pray to God

People: Hear us, O God

Sung Response *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (twice).
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Sharing our Gifts Brightest and Best R. Heber, J. P. Harding

***Doxology** *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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright (insert, #152, vv 3-4)

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Communion Music

Largo *from the* Winter Concerto

A. Vivaldi

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Teach us, O God, to follow the example of Christ's sacrifice in this holy meal: to hand ourselves over in love for you, for one another, and for all people. May we take part in your work of suffering and redeeming love by lifting up the oppressed, binding the brokenhearted, challenging the powerful, and drawing all into a community of love. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

(Adapted from the UCC *Book of Worship*)

*Hymn

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

(insert, #141)

*Benediction

Postlude

Allegro *from* Concerto in F Major

A. Vivaldi

* Congregation stands (*live-streamers, feel free to lift your hearts!*)

Participating Today

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, sustfast@yahoo.com

Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music

David J. Kaden, Tech Support

H. Donald Hinman, bass soloist

Siu-ling Wong Chaloemtiarana, piano accompanist

Paul Viscuso, accordion (communion music)

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.

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

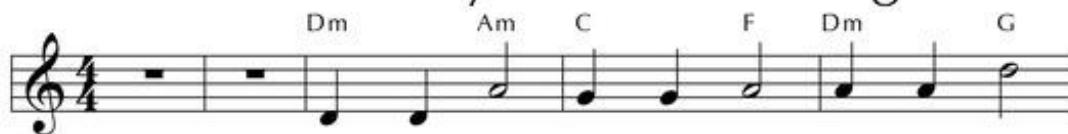
sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(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.

141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring



- 1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this Latin carol for Christmas may have roots several centuries older than its 16th-century emergence, the text was all in one language until its 20th-century translator chose to adopt the original last two lines of the fourth stanza as a unifying refrain in all stanzas.