

Welcome to worship!

Where there is text in **bold type**, you are invited to speak the words printed there just as we do with responsive readings in church.

## Opening Prayer

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O God, you made of one blood all nations,  
and, by a star in the East,  
revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel.  
Enable us who know your presence with us  
so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light  
and bow before the brightness of his rising,  
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Music

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" – vv. 1, 3, 6  
O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Beth-le-hem.  
Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;  
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,  
O come let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!  
Sing, choirs of an-gels, sin in ex-ul-ta-tion;  
O sin, all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove!  
Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est;  
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,  
O come let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!  
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing,  
Je-sus to thee be all glo-ry, given.  
Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing:  
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,  
O come let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

## Bible Reading

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Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him.”

When they heard the King, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling on their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## Music

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“The First Noel” – vv. 1, 3, 5

The first No-el the an-gel did say  
was to cer-tain poor shap-herds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep,  
on a cold win-ter’s night that was so deep.  
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, born is the King of Is-ra-el.

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men cam from coun-try far;  
to seek for a king was their in-tent,  
and to follow the star where-ev-er it went.  
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, born is the King of Is-ra-el.  
Then en-tered in those Wise Men three,  
full rev-erent-ly up-on the knee,  
and of-fered there, in his pres-ence,  
their gold and myrrh and frank-in-cense.  
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, born is the King of Is-ra-el.

## Message

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Notes:

## Music

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### We Three Kings

We three kings of O-ri-ent are; bear-ing gifts we tra-verse a-far,  
field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol-low-ing yon-der star.  
O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,  
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.  
Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a-gain,  
King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er, o-ver us all to reign.  
O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,  
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.  
Fran-in-cense to of-fer have I; in-cense owns a Di-i-ty nigh;  
prayer and prais-ing, voic-es rais-ing, wor-ship-ing God on high.  
O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,  
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.  
Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom;  
sor-rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,  
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

Glo-rious now be-hold him a-rise; King and God and sac-ri-fice:  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, sound through the earth and skies.

O star of won-der, star of light, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,  
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

## New Year's Covenant Renewal

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. . . As we begin this new year, we offer to you our hearts, our minds, and our lives  
along with this prayer in which we recommit ourselves to you and your holy  
purposes:

**I am no longer my own, but yours.**

**Use me for what you will and rank me with whom you will.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by you or set aside for you,  
lifted up for you or brought low for you.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and will.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Spirit,  
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.**

**And this covenant I make here on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.**

**Amen.**

Christmas carols, opening prayer, and New Year's Covenant Renewal prayer.

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