

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The Second Sunday of Christmas, January 2, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Prelude: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

arr. Greg Sewell

Kathy Hutcheson, Director of Music

<https://youtu.be/iDCeOMWaH7c> - Traditional English Christmas carol arranged in a Celtic style for violin solo with guitar accompaniment and performed by K.L. Phillips

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Church Family News

The Passing of the Peace of Christ

Coming to Worship # 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter*, verse 4

CRANHAM

<https://youtu.be/NNbe9sthLz4> - Susan Boyle

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen,
snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Call to Worship**

Esten Medlin

Herod's treachery could not stop hope!

God's light, whose sign was a star, was poured out for the people.

All the fears and flights of this world cannot diminish God's light.

That light is the life of Jesus Christ, who forever breaks through the darkness.

Thanks be to God, for the most precious gift of the Saviour's Light.

Let us live as people of his new Light and Hope! Amen.

Hymn of Praise # 147 *The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

<https://youtu.be/ijfjZeiRi3g> - Carrie Underwood

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's love, we bring our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God's as a community following Jesus. Let us come to God with our confessions together:

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you to name our new year anticipation and anxiety we all have. We take the first step on this journey into new territory. The unknowns are adventurous but challenging – what will we face? Our fear needs assurance and security only you can give us. This new year is a time we come to center ourselves in your care, O Lord, and ask that you firmly gather us in your faithful hands for the years to come. In the name of our blessed Savior we pray, Amen.

KYRIE # 129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Verse 1/3

EST IST EIN' ROS'

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,

by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

Words of Assurance from 1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins - - and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Assurance # 110 Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

<https://youtu.be/MXIQyyVZF-E> - National Lutheran Choir

**Love has come--a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.**

**Love has come--He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

Reading from the Old Testament: Numbers 24:16 – 19:

Who sees what the Strong God reveals? Who bows in worship and sees what is real? I see him, but not right now. I perceive him, but not right here; a star rises from Jacob, a scepter from Israel, a ruler ...

Reading from the New Testament- Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Sermon: *Starstruck*

Rev. Maggie Lauterer

Hymn of Response # 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

<https://youtu.be/ANXV46f3jo0> - Angel City Chorale

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

Affirmation of Faith: Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Blessing for the New Year*

arr. by Steven Scott

Doxology #606 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

<https://youtu.be/tQUTvMtUhw4> - Anthem Lights ft. Selah

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.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Giver of Life, be the treasure in our hearts. Be in the gifts that we give. Give us the courage to follow your star, your light. In the name of the Emmanuel, Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Serving of the bread and cup

Prayer

Closing Hymn # 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High, verses 1 and 2

GLORIA

https://youtu.be/dtByTy_5jql - Josh Groban (ft. Brian McKnight)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be

which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see

him whose birth the angels sing;

come, adore on bended knee

Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

arr. by Donald F. Marsh