



DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“We may choose something
like a star*

To stay our minds on and be staid.”

-Robert Frost, from Steeple Bush, 1947

Hymn

What Star Is This with Beams so Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

2. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.

3. O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736, Trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

Centering Prayer (unison)

Pat Tweet

(From <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5628/worship-elements-december-27-2020>)

Holy Starlight of Grace, we who have seen the dusk of so many old ways, are witnessing the dawn of a new day. We easily could not have seen. Not because of tired eyes, but because of weary spirits. Like your Magi, tired from their travels, we find ourselves wondering if we will ever arrive at that which we seek – to see you with our own eyes, to find ways to give our gifts to you in person. "Unto us a child is born," yes; and as the days pass, help us to prepare for him! Help us, O Source of all Light, to keep the childlight within us safe, lest we destroy the One you sent to save us. And ground us in your glory; root us in your wisdom; keep us growing in your Light, as we travel on our way, we ask. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Pat Tweet

From *The Passion Translation*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
 God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
 For you are the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way of salvation.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus

Text and Music by Kathleen Thomerson, alt., ©1970 Celebration, admin. The Copyright Co.

Meditation

"Thomas and the Epiphany"

Rev. Swift

Music for Reflection

Choose Something Like a Star

Randall Thompson

*O Star (the fairest one in sight),
 We grant your loftiness the right
 To some obscurity of cloud-
 It will not do to say of night,
 Since dark is what brings out your light.
 Some mystery becomes the proud.
 But to be wholly taciturn
 In your reserve is not allowed.
 Say something to us we can learn
 By heart and when alone repeat.
 Say something! And it says 'I burn.'
 But say with what degree of heat.
 Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
 Use language we can comprehend.
 Tell us what elements you blend.
 It gives us strangely little aid,
 But does tell something in the end.
 And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,*

*Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.*

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Prayers of Healing and Transformation

Rev. Swift

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come! Thy 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 thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2 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]

3 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]

4 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]

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

In Dir ist Freude
"In Thee Is Gladness"
Jason Cloen, organ

J.S. Bach

Thank you to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Pat Tweet,
Jason Cloen, Alan Jones, and Lee Wright

Choir: Marrlee Burgess, Juli Elliot, Kelley Madden, Emmalouise St. Amand,
David Henkel, Ben Magruder, Rob Brown, Alan Jones,
Jason Cloen, piano

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, Ben Magruder (Hymns/Choral Music)
Website integration: Mark Anderson

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Session has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for
Sunday, January 17, 2021 at noon.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Amend the Manual of Administrative Operations (By-laws) to make provision for holding
electronic (virtual) meetings by inserting a new paragraph after section #12 that reads:

13. The congregation may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of
the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss and vote on business items.

2. Acting on the report from the Church Nominating Committee.

The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Pat Youngdahl,
Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kelly,
Associate Pastor

Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator

Mark Anderson, Director of Operations

Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor

Ed Verna, Maintenance

Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Robert Clement, Maintenance

Dr. Lee S. Wright,

Director of Music Ministry

Jason Cloen, Associate Musician

Alan Jones, Associate Musician

Penny Crudup, Church Secretary

David Mear, Business Manager

Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper

& Receptionist Coordinator

Keisha Betts, Receptionist

Theresa Reddick, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

John DeHority, Clerk of Session

Joan Mackey and Carol Snook, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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