



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

Welcome to "Voices of Grace", our virtual worship experience that features parishioners leading worship from their own homes. We hope you join us from yours! Wherever you are, we pray for your health and well-being. God bless you!

Jonathan+

JANUARY 3, 2021 ~ THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

VOICES OF GRACE "VIRTUAL" WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

HYMN 128

*The Stanzas are sung by the Three Kings,
the Congregation joins in the Refrain*

MELCHIOR (INCENSE)

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star. **Refrain.**

3. Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worship Him, God most High. **Refrain.**

GASPARD (GOLD)

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **Refrain.**

BALTHAZAR (MYRRH)

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain.**

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. **Refrain.**

Refrain

O star of wonder, 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!

*Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.
 Music: Three Kings of Orient, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)*

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Read by Marti Gilchrist

BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84:1-8

Said by all

Led by Sarah O'Gara

HOW DEAR TO ME is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Read by David Olsen

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 Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Hartwell Hylton, Deacon

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Led by Dave Seifert

Please join in responding to each petition saying:

Hear our prayer.

ANTHEM

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET der Morgenstern
Voll Gnad und Wahrheit von dem Herrn,
Die süße Wurzel Jesse!
Du Sohn Davids aus Jakobs Stamm,
Mein König und mein Bräutigam,
Hast mir mein Herz besessen,
Lieblich, freundlich,
Schön und herrlich, groß und ehrlich,
Reich von Gaben,
Hoch und sehr prächtig erhaben!

*How brightly shines the morning star,
Full of God's grace and truth,
The Root of Jesse blessed!
Thou David's son of Jacob's stem,
My King, and my Bridegroom,
Thou hast my heart possessed.
Sweetly, friendly,
O thou handsome, Precious ransom,
Full of graces,
Set and kept in heavenly places.*

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Music: from Musae Sionae, Part IX (1610), Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Sung by Benjamin Willis and Matthew Hall, at their current parish of St. Peter's in Philadelphia.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

The Rector

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

O GOD, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:
Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity,
your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

~ PRAYER LIST ~

This week, we pray for: *Buddy Lancaster, Rene, Dan Jentzen, The Riley Family, Miriam Ganache, Ricky Birkes, Ryan, Amanda, Jacqui, Hope Brothers, Eli, Michael Tonry, Sue and Kevin Farley, Barbara Salisbury, Nancy Ducharme, Pat, Linda, Nyree, Brian, Tony McKeown, Sarah, Diana, Ruby, Lola, Jennifer, Art McGovern, Rob Compagna, Sean, Claire, Amanda, Jerry, Nancy, Nick, Richard and Christine Pelletier, Bill, Jen & Marc, Sarah, Robert Cramer, for the repose of the souls of John and Anne Sullivan, and all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way. We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound.*



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

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