

## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

### Leading Worship this Morning

Ian Clark, pastoral resident  
Mary Kate McAlister, seminarian  
Jason Graffis, director of contemporary worship and arts  
Sherry Ward, carillonneur  
Bill Cathey, usher team leader

### Sharing the Gifts of Music

Gerard Benson (bass), Amber Brown (vocals), Noelle Lewis (vocals),  
Phil Lyew (tenor sax)

### Audio and Visuals

David Balas (visuals), Ricko Hill (video), Dave Welchman (audio)

### Cover Image

*Adoration of the Magi* is located in the Sanctuary in the first window from the narthex entrance on the west nave. In tradition, three kings from the East kneel before the Christ child to present gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, potentially symbolic of the offices of the king, the priest, and the prophet. Jesus sits enthroned on Mary's lap, fully aware, fully divine even as a small child, his right hand held in an attitude of blessing, three fingers extended for the Trinity and two folded for his dual nature as human and divine. All wear a nimbus to indicate holiness. Jesus' nimbus is in the tri-radiant form of the Trinitarian divinity. Small symbols emphasize messianic hope, courage, the Stars of Jacob and of Bethlehem, Venus as the morning star rising in our hearts in that uncertain space between darkness and light, earth and the heavens, flesh and spirit. Reference Matt 2:1-12; 2 Pet 19-21. Photo © 2010 JonSilla.com.

## WELCOME TO COVENANT

Join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Circle, where today's preaching minister will be glad to greet you. You also may learn more about our life of faith together at our website or on Facebook.

Interested in joining Covenant? We welcome new members every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building. We also welcome new members on the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall Library at 12 p.m.

Each Sunday, we offer education and fellowship opportunities in the mornings and evenings for children, youth and adults in the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. Please see the digital signs for details.

Covenant expects and gladly welcomes many first-time and repeat visitors. By introducing ourselves and sharing a warm greeting, we express the hospitality of our congregation. Please share a smile and welcoming word with those around you.

## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (AS OF DECEMBER 27)

### Birth

Congratulations to Melissa Hickok and Adam Fiorenza (and siblings Joey and Lyla) on the birth of their son, Romeo August Fiorenza, on November 26

### Wedding

Congratulations to Dana Kern and Mark Williams, who celebrated the occasion of their marriage yesterday in the Covenant Sanctuary

### In Need of Healing Prayer

Judy Gaffney  
Edna Hamilton  
Lamont Hudson  
Frank Mansfield  
Lillian Neal  
Bob Taylor  
Barbara White

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♻️ If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



1000 E. Morehead Street • Charlotte, North Carolina, 28204 • 704.333.9071  
[www.covenantpresby.org](http://www.covenantpresby.org)



SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
Sunday, December 30, 2018  
10 a.m.

SANCTUARY

Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship.

# SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 30, 2018 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Child care and children's programs (ages 6 weeks to fifth grade) are offered in the Education Wing. Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available in the balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*The First Noel*

The First Noel, the Angels 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

*What Child Is This (instrumental)* . . . . . W.C. Dix

Welcome & Announcements

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*\*Love Has Come* . . . . . K. Bible<sup>1</sup>

*\*It Came Upon The Midnight Clear* . . . . . E.H. Sears, R.S. Willis

*\*Prayer of Adoration*

<sup>1</sup>You are invited to rise in body or spirit

# PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Call to Confession

*Come, Come, Emmanuel* . . . . . J.J. Chepponis<sup>2</sup>

(prayer response)

**Come, come, Emmanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

**Come, come, Emmanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

Prayer of Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

A Time with Young Disciples

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom 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 kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Eagle's Wings* . . . . . R. Morgan<sup>3</sup>

**Come live in me  
All my life take over  
Come breathe in me  
And I will rise  
On eagle's wings**

Offering

*Home By Another Way* . . . . . T. Mayer, J. Taylor<sup>4</sup>

Those magic men the Magi  
Some people call them wise  
I don't know, maybe even kings  
Well anyway, those guys  
They visited with Jesus  
They sure enjoyed their stay  
Then warned in a dream of King Herod's scheme  
They went home by another way

Yes they went home by another way  
Home by another way  
Maybe me and you can be wise guys too  
And go home by another way  
We can make it another way  
Safe home as they used to say  
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high  
And go home another way

Steer clear of royal welcomes

Avoid a big to-do

A king who would slaughter the innocents

Will not cut a deal for you

He really, really wants those presents

He'll comb your camel's fur

Until his boys announce they've found trace amounts

Of your frankincense, gold and myrrh

Time to go home by another way

Home by another way

You have to figure the Gods saying play the odds

And go home by another way

We can make it another way

Safe home as they used to say

Keep a weather eye to the chart on high

And go home another way

Home is where they want you now

You can more or less assume that you'll be welcome in the end

Mustn't let King Herod haunt you so

Or fantasize his features when you're looking at a friend

Well it pleasures me to be here

And to sing this song tonight

They tell me that life is a miracle

And I figured that they're right

But Herod's always out there

He's got our cards on file

It's a lead pipe cinch, if we give an inch

Old Herod likes to take a mile

It's best to go home by another way

Home by another way

We got this far to a lucky star

But tomorrow is another day

We can make it another way

Safe home as they used to say

Keep a weather eye to the chart on high

And go home another way

## GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 . . . . . New Testament, p. 1

Sermon

"The Resolution of the Wise Men". . . . . Ian Clark

*\*Good Christian Friends Rejoice* . . . . . J.M. Neal

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

*\*Invitation and Benediction*

*\*Jesus O What A Wonderful Child* . . . . . K. Bible, T. Fettke<sup>5</sup>