

HYMN #147

“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 keeping 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)*

*5 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)*

*6 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)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. Amen.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn #110)

*Love has come and 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!*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“There’s A Song in the Air”

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

HYMN #152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

*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 While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.*

*4 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.*

EUCCHARIST

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

OFFERING

COMMUNION SONG (Hymn #144)

*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.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

SENDING

HYMN #827 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

*1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s line, King David’s son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious,
rich in blessing! Rule and might o’er all possessing!*

*2 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure. Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
refresh our souls with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For you teach us God’s own love through you has reached us.*

*3 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning! He will one day, O glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning for the day of your returning.*

BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

Worship Notes

Our worship series is based on resources from A Sanctified Art, LLC, sanctifiedart.org.



The banner and quilt squares were created by Sharon Schuler. The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.

The bulletin cover features "The Star of Bethlehem" by Hannah Garrity. The worship liturgy was adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

Leading Today's Worship

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed, Co-Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Co-Pastor

Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts

Ty Thornton, Pianist

Jonathan Cross, Liturgist

Coming Up

After worship today

Join us following the worship service for refreshments and Sunday School for all ages.

Wednesday Night Activities, January 8th

Join us at 5:30 for dinner and a night of board games, puzzles, and fellowship. Call the Church Office to make a reservation.

Lunch and Learn, Thursday, January 9th, Noon

Join us for Lunch and Learn as we welcome the Friends of Shades Creek who will share about the vital work of protecting Shades Creek and the Cahaba River Watershed. A \$5 contribution for lunch will be appreciated.

Lunch Bunch, Sunday, January 12th

Immediately following worship next Sunday we hope you will join us at a restaurant close by for some good fellowship together. Plans will be shared during worship for anyone who would like to go.

Tell Me More Lunch, January 12th, 11:45

Interested in learning more about becoming a member of Southminster? Join Tom and Leanne for lunch and conversation. Please RSVP to Betsy in the Church Office.

Welcome to Southminster

Connect: If you are new to Southminster, we are glad you are here! Fill out a connect card and visit us online at southminsterpcusa.org to learn more about what's coming up.

Children: We welcome children of all ages in worship. Childcare is also available for infants through age three in our Nursery (Room 213), staffed by caring, experienced workers. Worship bags for children are available in the entryway.

Communion: All are welcome at the table as we celebrate the Lord's Supper each week. The bread and juice are alcohol-free and gluten-free. If you prefer to remain seated during communion, an elder will be glad to bring the elements to you.

Prayer concerns: Fill out a card to share prayer concerns with our pastoral staff. You can pick up a copy of prayer concerns at the entrances to the sanctuary each week.

Offering: Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes located at the sanctuary entrances, or you may give securely online by visiting southminsterpcusa.org/give.

This Week

SUNDAY / JANUARY 5

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

TUESDAY / JANUARY 7

11:30am / Rotary

WEDNESDAY / JANUARY 8

4:30pm / Welcome and Engagement Committee

5:30pm / Wednesday Night Supper-Spaghetti and Meatballs, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

6:15pm / Game Night

7:00pm / Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY / JANUARY 9

11:00am / Bible Study

12:00pm / Lunch and Learn

FRIDAY / JANUARY 10

9:00am / Day School Chapel

SUNDAY / JANUARY 12

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

11:30am / Faith Formation Committee

11:45am / Lunch Bunch

11:45am / Tell Me More Lunch

11:45am / Matthew 25 Committee

4:00pm / Birmingham Youth Group Epiphany Party



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