

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 2, 2022



Buzz: This is an intergalactic emergency. I need to commandeer your vessel to Sector 12.

Who's in charge here?

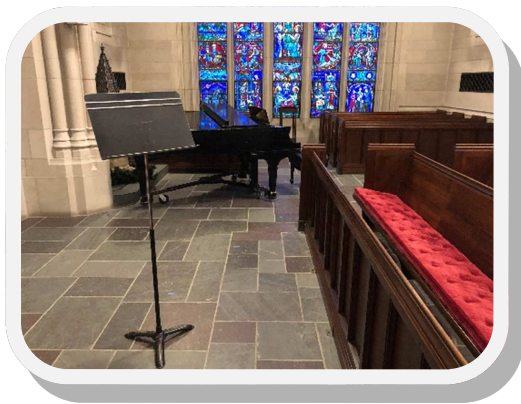
Squeaky Aliens: [pointing up] The Claw!

1st Alien: The Claw is our master.

2nd Alien: The Claw chooses who will go and who will stay.

Woody: This is ludicrous.

— from Toy Story



Music Search Committee Update

This past summer, the Session created a committee, headed by Elder Keith Peters and included members: Jeff Haynes, Amy Tully, Jayne Dodge, Julia Libcke, and Meg Lentz. This committee's task was to examine the Music Department and determine what were the important programs, what were the staffing needs, create the appropriate job descriptions for said staffing, determine a search committee and finally assess the complex issues of the organ.

The search committee and job descriptions for a full-time Music Director and part-time Organist were approved by Session in November. Members of the Search Committee include: Anita Pinson, Carol Beth Litkouhi, Jeff Haynes, Jim Tully, and Robert Libcke.

With sage advice from Tom Granum, the committee got to work right away creating a timeline and procedures for the search. In early December the Job Description for the Director of Music Ministries was posted with several professional organizations, including the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, The American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, PCUSA Louisville, as well as over a dozen major music schools.

In only one week, the committee had received almost a dozen applications, showing that this is a highly sought-after position.

Because the committee felt that the new Music Director should have some input into the new organist, it was decided that there should be a delay in posting the position for the organist until into the new year.

Examination of the Chancel Organ is ongoing. Several organ builders have assessed its condition and made recommendation. It is apparent that builder availability, timing, the hiring of a new organist, and funding will all have a huge impact on the organ next steps.

We hope to have the new Director of Music Ministries in place no later than July, with the Organist not far behind. The deadline for application for the Director of Music Ministries is January 31, with interviews in February and March and finally auditions for the select candidates in April and May.

The job description for the Director of Music Ministries can be found on the Kirk in the Hills web site under Resources/Employment. Should you know of anyone who might be interested, please refer them to the website and remind them of the January 31 deadline. Materials should be sent to MusicDirectorSearch@KirkintheHills.org.

This is an important aspect of rebuilding our church and I am sure that God will have a huge hand in finding the right person to lead our illustrious Music Program. I am looking forward to seeing who that will be.

Respectfully,
J. Robert Libcke
Chair, Music Search Committee

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house? —Luke 2:49

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Robert J. Powell

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for you light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us praise the Lord together.

The sun shall no longer be our light by day,

nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,

for the Lord will be our light,

and our God will be our glory.

The Lord will be our everlasting light,

and our days of sorrow will end.

Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

* HYMN 147

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

Stanza 1 – unison

Stanza 2 – harmony

Stanza 3 – unison (refrain: harmony)

Stanza 4 – harmony

Stanza 5 – unison (refrain: harmony)

We will not sing Stanza 6.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The light has come into the world,

and people loved darkness rather than light

because their deeds were evil.

Let us confess our sin to God.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

based on Matthew 2:1-16, 6:33

God of the Bethlehem star,

everyone is searching for your light

shining in the face of Christ.

The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him.

But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger.

We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure.

We do not come simply to worship:

**we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance,
health, wealth;**

asking him to fulfil the hundred petitions

for not-so-important requests that we heap before him.

But the Magi sought first the kingdom.

Help us, God, to follow their example,

putting our own need in perspective,

worshipping the Christ in love, content to be in your presence,
and laying our gifts before you.

**Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light
will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.**

*** KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

This response is Hymn 551.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news!

The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world.

**To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.**

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Greator rex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

**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.**

Children will remain in the sanctuary today.

PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER

Confitemini Domino

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

Please sing several times.

This sung prayer is Hymn 466.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:9-18

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*** HYMN 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

Please sing the refrain each time.

Stanzas 1-4 – soloists

Stanza 5 – all

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings, whether made in the worship service or outside of it, are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry here and in other parts of the world.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come

Allen Pote

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Arise, and shine like the sun, and all nations shall come, and all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising. The sun shall no longer be your light, nor the brightness of the moon by night. But the Lord shall be your everlasting light, your God will be your everlasting light. (Isaiah 60:1, 3, 9)

*** DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Hometowns: The Cage

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips

THE SENDING

HYMN 127

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Jesus, the Light of the World)**

We'll Walk in the Light

Please remain seated as the choir sings stanza one.

Then rise in body or spirit to sing Stanzas 1-4.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

WORSHIP NOTES

Notes on worship and music

Today's worship incorporates the transitions of the liturgical calendar. We begin with the Second Sunday after Christmas Day with a memory of Christmas morn as we sing the first stanza of *The First Noel*. Within *The First Noel*, we move forward in Christ's life and in our liturgical season as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, traditionally celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas, January 6. We look to the Bethlehem star for guidance. We are reminded with *We Three Kings of Orient Are* of the three gifts presented to the Christ child, suggesting the number three and perhaps kings or magi. The offertory anthem, *Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come*, proclaims Isaiah 60:1, 3, 9. Perhaps a more accurate translation in place of "shine" is "reflect." Have you seen the top of a mountain reflect the sunrise before you saw the sun itself? You might think of this text as "Arise, reflect the Light of Christ. We may not see Christ himself, but we can reflect the light of Christ to the world."

We then move into the life of Christ, which is commonly studied in the weeks following the Epiphany of the Lord, with our hearing the Luke scripture of the boy Jesus in the Temple. Although the hymn title is certainly familiar, our final hymn, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)*, may be unfamiliar to many of you. As you read at the bottom of the hymn page: "This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African-American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery." Images of light are common to the sequence of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and into the Sundays after Epiphany, culminating in the light of the Transfiguration, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, when the great glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ was made clear to Peter, James, and John (Mark 9:2-12).

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Liturgy from *The Worship Sourcebook*.

The First Noel arr. Michael Burkhardt © 2016 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers.

Come and Fill Our Hearts Jacques Berthier © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World) George D. Elderkin, arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel (to the left, when facing forward in the sanctuary) immediately following service each Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.



About today's cover art

Flight Into Egypt | Giotto di Bondone, 1315-20 | Public Domain

Giotto di Bondone has captured a narrow rocky path, with a procession that includes Mary, Joseph and Jesus as if they are moving past us the viewer. This fresco, painted 1315-1320, is one part of four in a series of panels that tell the story of Jesus' early years.

We hope that you experience a strong sense of welcome and home this morning! We invite everyone to offer greetings and peace at the close of the service. If you are new to the Kirk, we hope you will visit us at our Connect station in the cloister. Enjoy coffee and fellowship in Heritage Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service.

The annual congregational meeting will take place in the sanctuary after the 10am service on Sunday, January 9, 2022. This meeting is called to elect the class of 2024 officers for the Session, the Deacons and the Board of Trustees; to approve updated church Bylaws; to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call; and to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips.



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



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