

# The Feast of the Epiphany

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041

[www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org) † 215-679-2041

*"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."*

January 5, 2025

**8:00 a.m. In Person Worship - Sanctuary**

**10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary**

## ***Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!***

On the Feast Day of Epiphany as part of church history is the custom of blessing homes at the New Year. A family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their dwelling and on all who live, work with and visit them.

Take chalk and mark about the entrance or on the doorstep of your front door as follows: **20 + C M B + 25**

While doing the marking, someone says:

***The magi of old known as Caspar*** [mark the **C**],

... ***Melchoir*** [mark the **M**],

... ***and Balthasar*** [mark the **B**],

... ***followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us two thousand*** [mark the **20**]

... ***and twenty-five years ago*** [mark the **25**]

**May Christ bless our home** [mark the + after the 20]

... ***and remain with us throughout this coming year*** [mark the + before the 25].

Prayer of Blessing:

***Holy God, you revealed your beloved Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Make it a place of welcome and peace to all who enter. Fill us with the light of Christ, so that our concern for others will reflect your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

If you wish, you can also read a passage from Scripture – John 1:1-14 and then end with the Lord's Prayer.

C M B above the door also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for ***May Christ Bless This House!***

Blessings upon you and your house in 2025! - +PD

***We Praise and Confess***  
***The \* invites you to rise in body or spirit.***

Prelude      ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*** – John Behnke

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden  
plan,**

making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the  
gospel!

**O come, let us worship the Lord,  
for God has done wondrous things!**

\*Entrance Hymn: No. 377

***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*** - Houston

\*Greeting

The grace of God. has dawned upon the world with healing for  
all humankind. [Titus 2:11]

**And also with you.**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus  
our Lord. [1 Timothy 1:2]

**Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

**we enter your presence humbly, aware that we approach you from a world that chooses to walk in darkness, apart from you. Each one of us has ignored and even denied the enlightening power of Jesus Christ. We confess now our sins to you, God of power and might. Penetrate our darkness by the power of Christ's light, that we may live in the joy of knowing and loving you and each other.<sup>1</sup>**

*Silence*

### Declaration of Pardon

Pastor: *The good news of the gospel is this: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9]*

**People: In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### \*Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

### \*Epiphany Carol: No. 151

***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

Verses 1 & 2

### \*Collect

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . .

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<sup>1</sup> Webber, R. (1994). *The services of the Christian year* (Vol. 5, p. 202). Star Song Pub. Group.

## ***We Hear and Respond***

From the Prophets

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. <sup>2</sup>  
The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

**Thanks be to God!**

From a Letter of the Apostle Paul

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When

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<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.<sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.<sup>3</sup>

\*Epiphany Carol: 151

***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

Verses 3, 4, & 5

\*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**Glory to Christ our Savior.**

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to

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<sup>3</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> " 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. <sup>4</sup>

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

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<sup>4</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Faithlife.

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams – “PD”

## ***Two Responses and Two Results***

Welcome and Announcement

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings  
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by  
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

\*Offertory Response: No. 606

***The Doxology***

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Invitation to the Lord's Table

\*The 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.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy. . .who forever sing to the glory of your name:

## Seraphic Hymn

Alonzo P. Howeard 1838-1902

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of

5 Sa - ba-oth; Heav-en and earth are full, are full of the

8 ma-jes-ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho - san - na, ho -

11 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

14 Bless-ed is he that com - eth in the name of the

17 Lord, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

21 high - est!

Consecration and Epiclesis

You are holy, O God of majesty. . .According to his commandment.

**We remember His death, we proclaim His resurrection, we await His coming in Glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit. . .almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

Receiving of the Sacrament

*Please wait to receive until directed by the Pastor.*

Thanksgiving

\*Epiphany Carol: No. 147

***The First Nowell***

Following the Light of Christ into the World

***We go. . .  
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus  
with all people!***

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

***Toccata on "Carmen Ohio"*** – Carolyn Hamlin

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*In 2025 we celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Falkner Swamp Church of the founding of the German Reformed Church in America. To mark that significant anniversary, each Sunday you will find the Questions & Answers from the Heidelberg Catechism printed for The Lord's Day. A refresher for what we believe as Reformed people of God in this place.*

## **Lord's Day 1**

### Q & A 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,<sup>1</sup>  
but belong—  
body and soul,  
in life and in death—<sup>2</sup>  
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ<sup>3</sup>  
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup>  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil<sup>5</sup>  
He also watches over me in such a way<sup>6</sup>  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven;<sup>7</sup>  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup>  
Because I belong to him,  
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life<sup>9</sup>  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for him.<sup>10</sup>

1 1 Cor. 6:19-20

2 Rom. 14:7-9

3 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14

4 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2

5 John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11

6 John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5

7 Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

8 Rom. 8:28

9 Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

10 Rom. 8:1-17

Q & A 2

Q. What must you know to  
live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things:

first, how great my sin and misery are;<sup>1</sup>

second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;<sup>2</sup>

third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.<sup>3</sup>

1 Rom. 3:9-10; 1 John 1:10

2 John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

3 Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:9-10

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## **JANUARY 5, 2025**

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers  
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist  
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support  
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation  
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education  
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist  
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary  
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: [office@newgoshucc.org](mailto:office@newgoshucc.org)  
Visit us online at [www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org)

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**WELCOME VISITORS** ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

**WiFi PASSWORD:** Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS** are located on a table in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and at the elevator entrance on the lower level. There is no charge for the booklets.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pickup. They are located on the upper level near the elevator. Envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Holiday break thru January 9<sup>th</sup>. Bible Study will resume on January 16, 2025.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2025:** Starting on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, and running through Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 - all wreaths sponsored through a registered WAA Sponsorship Group will be matched by HQ for placement on next year's National Wreaths Across America Day - **Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025!** The match will only be honored on online orders and checks dated, and mail postmarked during the 12/14/24-1/17/25 timeframe. If checks are submitted outside this timeframe, the wreaths will not be matched. No Exceptions! Thank you very much for supporting PA0792 - Lt. Matthew Smith Chapter DAR.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

*The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.*

**GLENNA BITTING ENDOWMENT FUND**

**In memory of Glenna & Harold Bitting**

by Jane & John Lumm

**GENERAL FUND**

**In honor of my sisters, Lorraine Lamberton and Dorothy Hemmerle**

by brother, Larry

**In memory of parents, Daniel & Thelma Rohrbach**

by Kathy Roth

**In loving memory of brother, Rick Schuler**

by David Schuler

**FIRST MONDAY MEAL:** Chilly temps calls for a warm, rich, savory bowl of chili! Join us Monday, January 6 for just that...a bowl of chili, bag of Cheezits, cornbread, applesauce and a cookie! *Take out style* serving will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. here at New Gosh. Your host ... New Gosh Christian Education Committee. If you prefer to dine in, Pennsburg UCC will be offering pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, roll and dessert. Dinner there is served promptly at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**CARE PACKAGES:** During the month of January items will be collected by the Health & Welfare Committee to create care packages for our young adult members attending college and in the military. Donation boxes will be in the social room and on the stage in the fellowship hall from Sunday, January 5 through Sunday, January 26 if you would like to contribute. Suggested items include pens, post-it notes, small office supplies, granola bars, candy, gum, mints and individually packaged snacks. Please note: College students are asked to provide a current mailing address to the church office by Friday, January 24, 2025 in order to receive a care package. Contact Cindy Roma at [croma1014@gmail.com](mailto:croma1014@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this project.

**Join Pastor Dave the Second Sunday at 9:15 a.m.:** Some months ago, Pastor Dave said he would teach a Sunday School class once a month on a specific topic on basic theology/doctrine of the church. He returns to teaching the **Basics of Faith** on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m. in the Bible Fellowship Room. This winter we will be looking at the Theology of the Trinity!

**January – Who Is God?** The arguments for God’s existence, the attributes of God, the names of God, and more! Did you know that God has many names throughout Scripture that reveal the character and personhood of God? We’ll dig into God!

**February – Who Is Jesus?** His pre-existence, his incarnation, his humanity, his deity, his life, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and his return! (Now, if I can cover that in 50 minutes that will be a miracle!) More likely that we will talk about Jesus in February and March!

**April – Who is the Holy Spirit?** Is the Holy Spirit a “person” or an “it?” The Nicene Creed has a phrase in it “he proceeds from the Father and the Son and is worshiped and gloried.” What a mouthful – what does that mean? It is a phrase that split the church in the 11<sup>th</sup> century from the east and west!

Pastor will have PowerPoints and note sheets for each class. We are finite and God is infinite, we will only scratch the surface and hopefully make you more curious to learn more about the Trinity!

**INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS:** The new members of the 2025 Consistory will be ordained and/or installed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 12, 2025. If there is inclement weather, it will take place on Sunday, January 19. Those to be ordained or installed are:

***Thomas Bancroft and Donna Fried***, Elders  
***Gene Basara and Randy Peterson***, Deacons  
***Bruce Adam and Frank Eidle***, Trustees

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** A memorial service for **Seth D. Fulmer** will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by interment in the cemetery. You are invited to attend the memorial service and join the family afterwards for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

**2024 YEARBOOK:** The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2024 has been set for **MONDAY, January 13, 2025**. Committee chairpersons, youth leaders, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

**ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS** may pick up their arrangements immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. ***Flower arrangements that are not picked up on Sunday will be available in the Church Office until Wednesday, after which time they will be discarded.***

**BULLETINS** are presented in loving memory of Glenna & Harold Bitting by daughter and son-in-law, Jane & John Lumm.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Conrad Fisher; and in loving memory of parents, Vera & Charles H. Kulp and Florence & Curtis Seasholtz; sisters, Gail Himmelwright and Peggy Fulmer; brothers, Norman C. Kulp and Daniel Seasholtz; grandson, Michael James Giovanelli; and nephew, Seth Fulmer by Ralph & Nancy Seasholtz and family.

**THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT** are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of Jean R. Fox by the family.

**ATTENDANCE:** 12/29/24 – 8:00 a.m. 38; 10:30 a.m. 36; Livestream (You Tube) 53. Sunday School 32. 12/24/24 – 3:00 p.m. 185; 7:00 p.m. 94; Livestream (You Tube) 86.

Above is the "Live" Concurrent Household Number - (Note: "number of households" is less than "number of people". If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)

**OPERATING INCOME 12/24/24 & 12/29/24:** Current & Benevolences \$11,899; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$342. General Fund appeal to date \$18,730. Monthly EFT income \$5,060. Brass Buckets \$1,885.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** 73 giving units have responded. There is \$84,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$84,131 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)



**FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:**

Year to Date Income	\$714,057.74
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$74,178.16</u>
	\$639,879.58
Year to Date Expenses	\$684,784.25
Special Projects BIM Income	\$167,644.06
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$275,563.26
Meadows Payback Income Year to Date	\$695.00

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) - Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) – Communion
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	First Monday Meal (FH)
	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee (BF)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	9:30 a.m.	Quiet Days
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower level classrooms)
Wed.	6:30 p.m.	Property, Park, Cemetery Committees (Bible Fellowship)
	7:00 p.m.	Nursery School Board (Confirmation Room)
Thurs.	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (FH)
Fri.	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Heidelberg Room; Apostles Room; 4 <sup>th</sup> grade classroom)
Sat.	11:00 a.m.	Private Event (FH)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) – Consistory Installation and Ordination
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Seth Fulmer (Sanctuary) followed by interment and Luncheon (FH)

### **Thank you to our Service Participants**

8:00 a.m.	Narthex – Bruce Adam Roberts' Church Office – Terry Vincent Elevator – Amy Hangey Upper Narthex – Emy Moyer Liturgist/Acolyte – Donna Fried
10:30 a.m.	Narthex – Thomas Bancroft Roberts' Church Office – Doug Atno Elevator – Sheri Ackerman Upper Narthex – Steve Lentz Liturgist/Acolyte – Terry Dworkin

# 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the top staff. The music consists of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.



The light that  
shines in  
darkness!

# 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, 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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

# 606

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise \*him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

*\*Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

# 147

## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

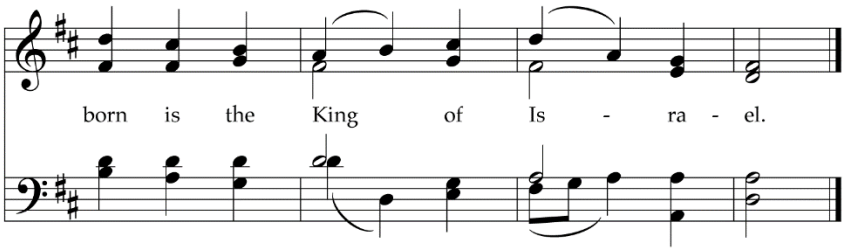
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).



- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.  
*Refrain* *Refrain*

