

CATONSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epiphany

January 2, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude:** "What Sweeter Music"

John Rutter

**Call to Worship (Responsive)**

We come to this place —

*each of us on our own path.*

The path is winding,

*and the path is not always clear,*

and the path changes,

*but we are here.*

God is walking us home.

*What a gift it is to not walk alone.*

Let us worship Holy God.

Let us follow the star!

**Hymn 152 – See page 7. "What Star Is This"**

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Call to Confession**

I imagine that, for the Magi, walking to Bethlehem  
was not easy.

I imagine that following a star for navigation  
was *definitely* not easy.

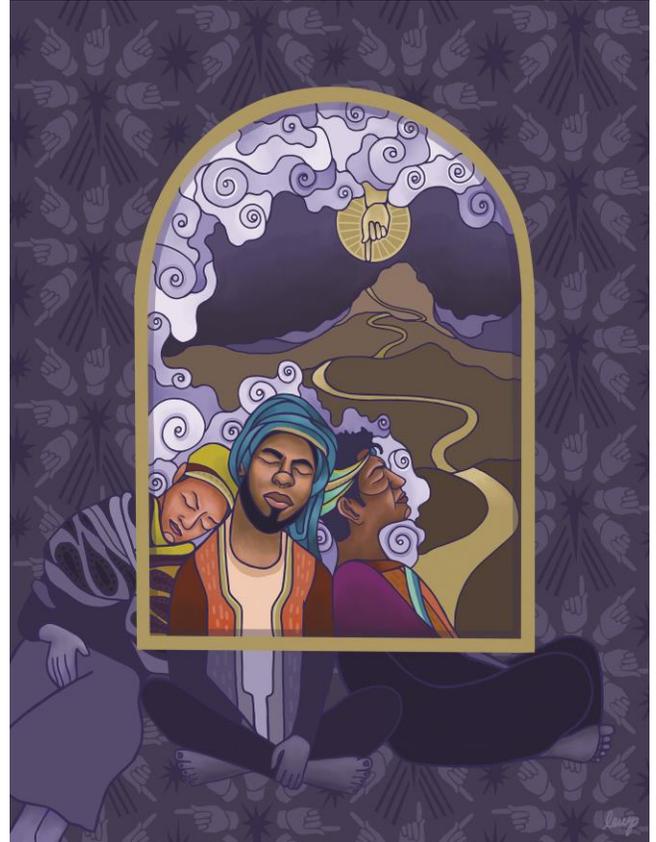
However, I would imagine that the hardest part  
might have been not knowing where  
the road would lead.

Friends, we are not always the best versions  
of ourselves when we are faced with  
uncertainty or changing plans.

Facing the unknown pulls on  
every ounce of our anxiety and fear.

It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our  
patience, our calm, our sense of perspective.

Fortunately for us, we worship a God  
who is gracious beyond imagination



and meets us on every twist and turn  
of the road home.

So let us pray together now knowing  
that even in our worst moments,  
we are held by God.

**Prayer of Confession (Together)**

*God of changed plans,  
the Magi heard in a dream  
that they were to take a new way home —  
a different path, an untravelled road.  
And to our amazement, they did just that.  
The Magi packed their bags and went home  
by another way.*

*We wish that change could be easy for us,  
but more often than not, when whispers  
of change come, we tend to clench  
our fists and hold on tighter.*

*Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.  
Forgive us for ignoring that there is more  
than one road home.  
Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.  
Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.*

Silent Prayer of Confession

**Declaration of Forgiveness (Responsive)**

No matter which roads we take in this one wild  
and precious life, God walks with us.  
God never leaves our side.  
When the road changes and we find ourselves  
on a new path home, God is always there.

So hear and believe this good news:

*No matter where we go,  
no matter what we do,  
we are claimed, loved,  
and held by God.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.*

**Response of Praise (Unison)**

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Life in Community**

The peace and joy of the Lord  
be with you and yours today.  
Thank you for joining us for worship.  
Other announcements...

**Children's Message**

The camel ends our journey.	Light the Christmas candle!
We kneel at Jesus' feet.	Let it burn brightly far and near!
The heavenly light is shining,	Sending out the message
God's promise is complete.	That Jesus Christ is here.

**Hymn 145 – See page 8. "What Child Is This"**

GREENSLEEVES

**Prayer for Illumination (Together)**

*Holy God, You speak to us in Scripture and  
in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets,  
in friends and strangers, in dreams and songs.  
You are speaking all the time,  
and how often do we miss it?  
Still our minds so that we can listen with a  
depth that we have not heard before.  
Still our hearts so that we can receive with open  
arms what it is you are offering us today.  
We know you are speaking, so we are listening.  
Gratefully, we pray. Amen.*

**Sripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Message:** Course Correction

**Call to Offering**

The Magi came bearing gifts, because that is  
what we do when we love someone.  
We prepare.  
We celebrate.  
We drop off casseroles and flowers.  
We bring gifts.  
It has always been that way.

So today, we are invited to do the same for God.  
 We are invited to bring our gifts as a sign  
 of our love.

And instead of gold,  
 we'll give our tithes and our offerings.

Instead of frankincense,  
 we'll give our talents and our energy.

Instead of myrrh,  
 we'll give our time.

We give because we love.  
 It has always been that way.  
 Let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

**Musical Offering: "Nativity Carol"**

John Rutter

**Prayer of Dedication (Together)**

*God of new beginnings,  
 we offer these gifts to you today  
 because we love you.*

*Take these gifts and use them for your good.*

*With hope we pray. Amen.*

**Communion Hymn 537 – See page 9. "When at This Table"**

FEAST DAY

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)**

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 God of Light.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Bright shining God,  
 we rejoice that you have  
 made us in your image and call us  
 to live in your limitless love.

You bring peoples and leaders  
 to the dawn of your rising.

You sent your only child,  
 our morning star,  
 to light a way in our night  
 and lead us to justice and peace.

*Your Holy Spirit shines good news into our lives.*

*Each daybreak you call us to feed the hungry  
bring recovery of sight, liberate the oppressed,  
heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds,  
and keep watch for the dawn of your  
commonwealth on earth.*

*For all of this we give you thanks.*

By your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup  
that they may become for us  
the presence of Christ among us.

Shine your light and your love  
on the offering of our lives.

*Enlighten us that we may be your people,  
the body of the risen Christ,  
the light of the world,  
set apart to serve this earth  
that you have made.*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
we praise you now and forever,  
O Eternal Light.

This we pray, in the name of the child  
of Bethlehem, who taught us to pray, saying

*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.*

**Sharing the Meal**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Passing of the Peace**

Hymn 547 – See page 10. “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

### Benediction

Postlude: “Behold That Star”

Thomas W. Stalley, arr. Mark Hayes

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### WELCOMING ALL GOD’S PEOPLE

Catonsville Presbyterian Church recognizes that **people of all ages have varying abilities and needs**. If you meet or see someone with differing needs, whether an adult or a child, please recognize that underlying conditions may occasionally cause behavior that might be misinterpreted as inappropriate. Please reach out. Ask if there is a way that you might assist, and otherwise be understanding and supportive.

If you or a family member has special needs, please speak to one of the pastors or the Deacon of the Day. We want to fully appreciate each individual’s gifts and talents and help you to feel a part of this faith community.

### CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children are welcome in worship as part of the Whole Family of God. We are delighted they are here. For safety reasons we are not currently providing child care on Sunday mornings but fellowship hall is available for families to use. The service can be heard in the room, plus there’s plenty of space for active children. A parent may also take a child to the playground before, during, and after worship.

Children’s Bibles and books are available in the back of the sanctuary, along with clipboards, ayons, markers, and paper.

Information about our education ministries is in our newsletter and can be found on our website, [www.catonsvillepres.org](http://www.catonsvillepres.org)

### Participants

- Dorothy Boulton, *associate pastor*
- Kathy and Keith Glennan, *ruling elders, video production*
- Alison Enokian, *ruling elder, liturgist*
- Christopher Keenan, *organist*
- Greg Knauf, *vocalist*
- Kenneth E. Kovacs, *pastor*
- Vickie Lord, *social media support*

### Sources

- *A Sanctified Art* written by Rev. Sarah Speed
- *Feasting on the Word*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor. Westminster John Knox Press, 2013
- *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013).  
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# What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)  
 D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more  
 2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From  
 3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an  
 4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)  
 D A D G D A

love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis  
 Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed"; and  
 in-ward light the Lord con-veys and  
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)  
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

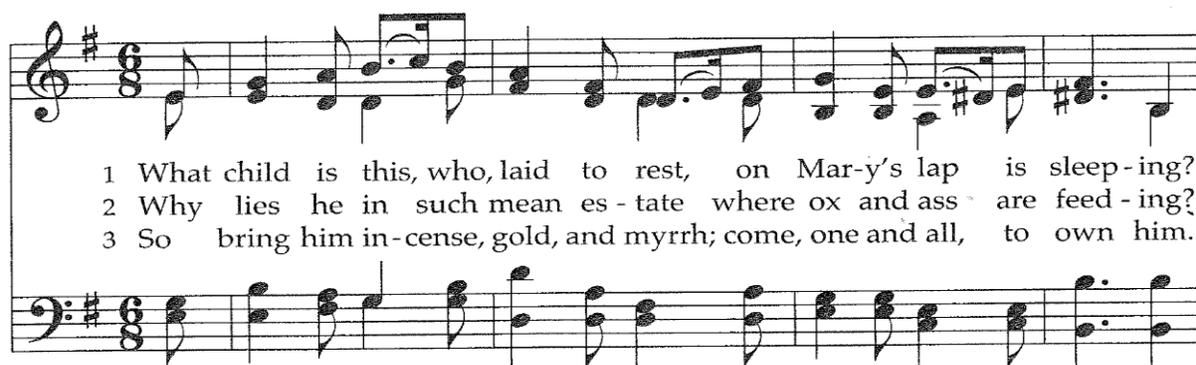
sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad  
 lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to  
 urg-es them, with ten-der might, to  
 not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)  
 A D A D G A D

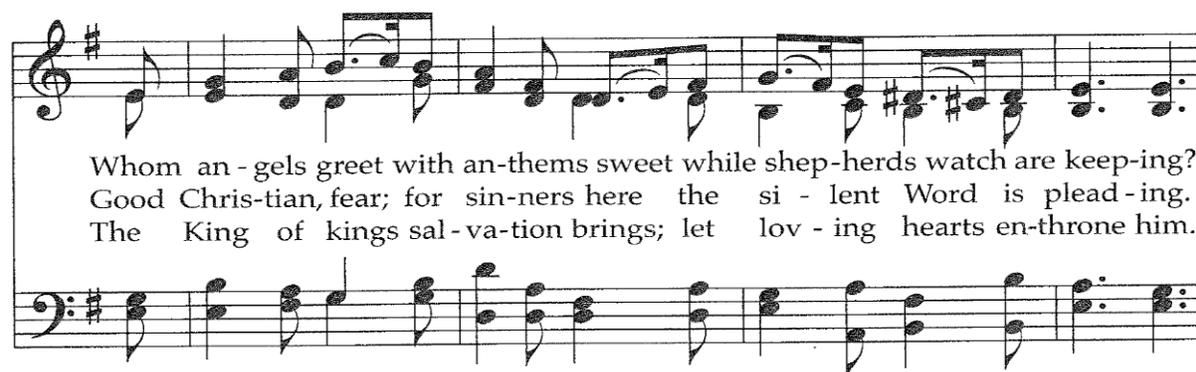
ti-dings of our God to bring.  
 read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.  
 seek the giv-er of the light.  
 guid-ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

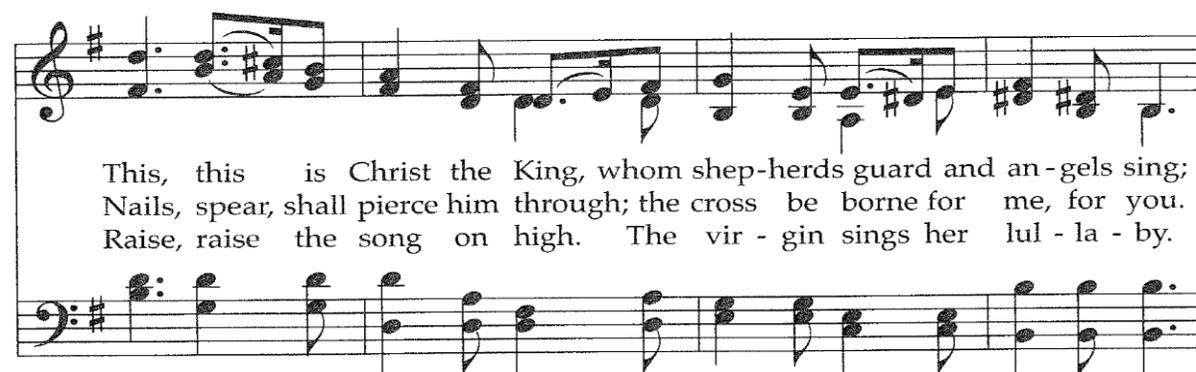
# 145 What Child Is This



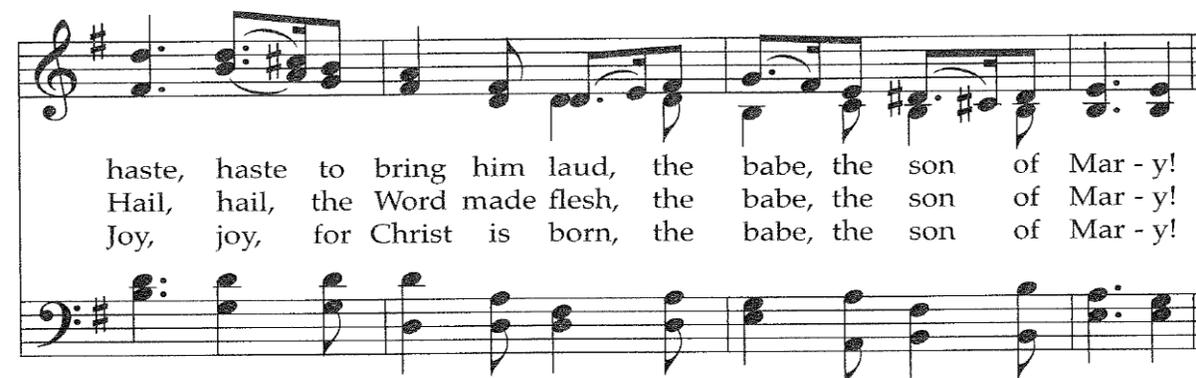
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

# When at This Table 537

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>

1 When at this ta - ble I re - ceive a bless - ing,  
 2 If at this ta - ble I have need of heal - ing,  
 3 If at this ta - ble I for - get the hun - gry,  
 4 If at this ta - ble I make ded - i - ca - tion  
 5 What faith I have, I bring to join this ta - ble,

(F<sup>#</sup>m) Gm (Bm) Cm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>

the bro - ken bread, the wine of life for me,  
 un - bid - den grief, re - la - tion - ship gone wrong,  
 the dis - pos - sessed and war - fare's spread - ing stain,  
 to give my life in serv - ing what is good,  
 what hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true;

(C) D<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (Am7) (D) B<sup>b</sup>m7 E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup>

then let me share the peace with you, my neigh - bor,  
 then let me know the hands of God en - fold - ing,  
 then let this bread be - come the bread of judg - ment,  
 then let my cen - ter be where God in - vites me,  
 with broth - ers, sis - ters, I will share the bless - ing,

(A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup> (Bm) Cm (Gmaj7) (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>

and let the Spir - it set our spir - its free.  
 and let la - ment be - come be - liev - ing song.  
 this wine the sharp a - ware - ness of that pain.  
 and show the words of Je - sus un - der - stood.  
 the feast where God is mak - ing all things new.

Though cast in an individual's voice, this prayerful text shows a strong communal awareness of the people gathered around the Lord's Table, their personal burdens, and matters of both local and global concern. The final two stanzas reflect renewed spiritual strength and resolve.

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."  
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

1400 Frederick Road • Catonsville, MD 21228-5017

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Church 410-747-6180 [www.catonsvillepres.org](http://www.catonsvillepres.org)

Child Care Center 410-747-4581 [www.cpcfccc.org](http://www.cpcfccc.org)

[kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org) [dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:dboulton@catonsvillepres.org)

[office@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)