

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**January 10, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Please join us in Chapin Hall for fellowship time after worship.

*The Welcome Table in Chapin Hall offers information about the church and members who can answer your questions. **Hearing devices and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please include your full address and phone number as you sign our friendship registration pads, and please wear your nametags. All announcements should be written down and given to the ushers or pastors prior to worship.

If you have a prayer request you would like read aloud for today's prayers, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the friendship registration pads (your name is optional). Be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.

PRELUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

setting by J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.

We have remembered God's wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.

We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

Lift up your eyes and look around;
God's people now gather together,
to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

**The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here:
Come, let us adore!**

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

****Bold type denotes collective response.***

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

God of wonder and mystery,
today we remember how you surprise us in every age.
Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light;
into emptiness, you bring abundance;
into the cold, you bring warmth.
Into the hardness of the world,
you bring the greatest power we have known,
in the seemingly powerless form of an infant.
Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us,
and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. We pray
this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father,..."
Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of
history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be
with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. You
ask no more of us than what we can provide. Give us the grace to
follow Jesus faithfully. We ask this in Jesus' name, 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.

***SUNG RESPONSE:**

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

(Children are invited to depart for S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School)

We will keep a place for you where - ev - er you may go.

We'll sus-tain this home of faith and love you've come to know. Go in peace, bring

hope to hearts that yearn. We will keep a place for you 'till you re-turn.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

N.T. p.649 pew Bible

SERMON

Epiphany Pageant

S.P.I.R.I.T.

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Cast (in order of appearance):

Narrator 1:	Hannah Fuller
Narrator 2:	Will Rolfe
Angel #1:	Toryn Pulling
Mary:	Kaedryn Pulling
Narrator 3:	Molly Morgan
Joseph:	Eric Jokl
Emperor:	Nicholas Jokl
Baby Jesus:	Maya McNally
Shepherds:	Alyssa Gau Jacob Engel
Animals:	Anna Gau Charlotte Reed-Swale
Angel #2:	Mollie Engel
Angel Host:	Persephone Blaise Bella St. Pierre
Wise Men:	Teagan Reed-Swale William McKenna Nicholas Jokl
King Herod:	Alex Gau
Stagehand:	Ben Rolfe
Music:	Liz Reed-Swale Mary DeLibero

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus #122 (black)

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver, born a child, you come to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

Angels We Have Heard on High #125 (black)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, ech-o back their joy-ous strains.

Refrain:

Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, Glo-ri-a

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
Say what may the tidings be, which in-spire your heaven-ly song.

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come a-dore on bend-ed knee, God, our world now entering.

Refrain

See the babe in manger laid whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #144 (black)

Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:

We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy are bright, Shine all
around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful, all you saints arise, Jesus, the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ, the ever lasting Word, Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus the light of the world.

Refrain

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” #154 (black)

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere,
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

OFFERING OF GIFTS

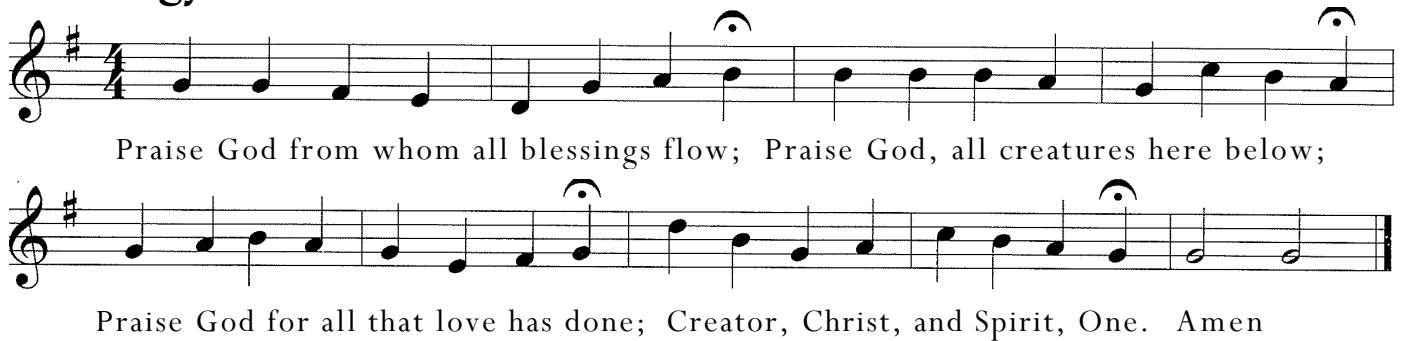
During the time of offering, your prayers can be offered using the blue prayer request cards and placed in the offering plate. The pastor will read the prayers aloud during the Joys and Concerns.

Invitation to the Offering

For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Offertory Anthem "T'was in the Moon of Wintertime" setting by L. Smith

*Doxology



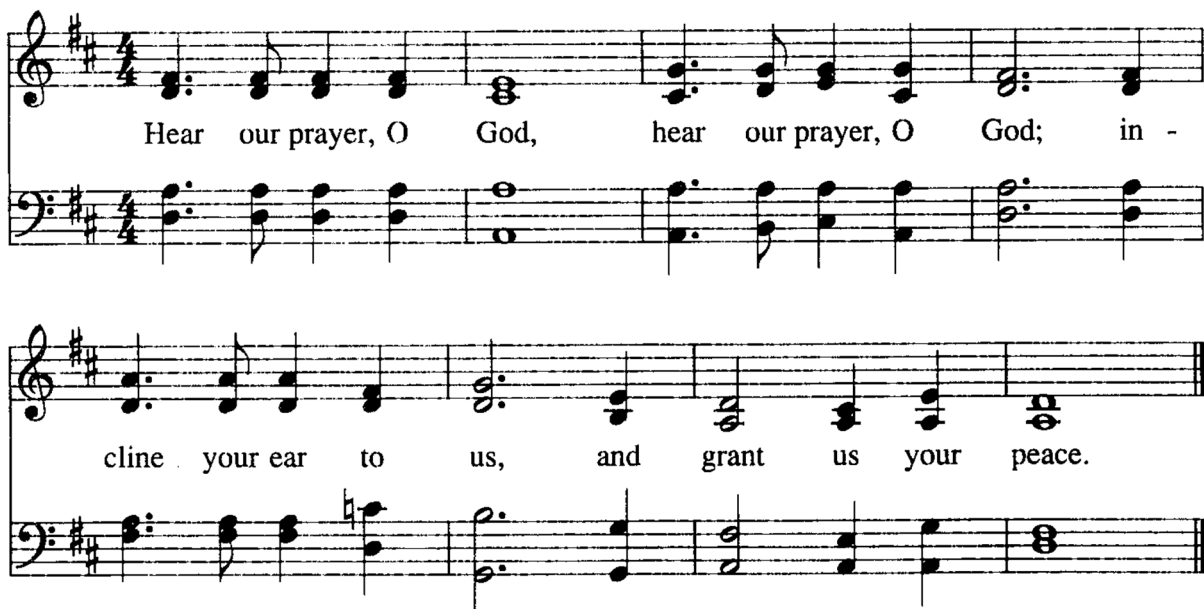
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN**

“As with Gladness Those of Old” New Century (black) 159

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"March of the Three Kings"

setting by D. McKeever

USHERS

Bill Hoffman, Marsha Hoffman, Steve Ware, and Wendy Ware

HOSPITALITY

Lynn McKenna

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. Jan 17 11:00am Second Hour

**WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE CHURCH
TO BE VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Come explore what it means to be an open and affirming community of faith in the community and our visibility in the community.

Sun. Jan 24 11:00am Second Hour

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

Sat. Jan.30 5:30pm COMFORT FOOD DINNER

DIAPER DRIVE DURING THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT

TODAY! SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

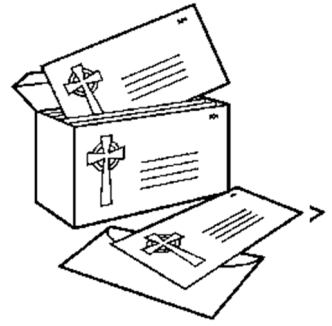
10:00AM



We are collecting diapers to be donated to The Diaper Bank who distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout CT. In poor and low-income families, a baby can spend a day or longer in one diaper, leading to potential health and abuse risks. The greatest need for diapers is size 5 & 6.

From the Financial Secretary:

Please contact me, Deb Copes, either by phone (860-257-1099) or email (deb.copes@gmail.com) if you need pledging envelopes for our 2016 pledge year. I can leave them for you down in Chapin Hall or another place in the church convenient for you to pick them up. If you are interested in signing up for Vanco/electronic funds transfer for your pledge, I would be happy to help you do that. I do contribute via Vanco for everything – pledge, Scrip payment, Missions/Diaconate offerings – and it is very convenient. And I'm all about convenience! If you already use Vanco and need assistance changing your current pledge, I would be happy to assist you with that as well.



COMFORT FOOD DINNER

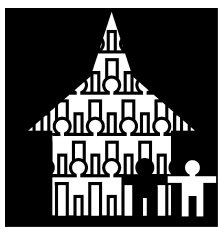
sponsored by InReach – **Saturday, Jan. 30 5:30 PM**, Chapin Hall, featuring Meat Loaf, Mac & Cheese, Ham. Entertainment by SEA TEA IMPROV.

Tickets \$10 for adults; \$5 ages 4-12; free for children under 4 years; family cap \$35.

Please call Jeannie Alessi for reservations 860-839-1321; tickets on sale during Coffee Hours. Snow date is January 31, 2016.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Join us **TODAY** for a **preparatory session** following worship, 11:30 a.m. in



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

the Parlor with the Rev. Craig and our Deacon(s). We welcome those interested in inquiring and exploring, as well as those who know they wish to join the church. If you'd like to be part of the process, but cannot attend, please speak to Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.

SCRIP-SURE



***What is it?** Scrip-sure is a **fundraising program** for our church, which allows the regular shopping we do at a variety of retailers to generate income for the church. How? Participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Church members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. Everybody wins! The retailers get our business, and our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would all be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations, and many other businesses, including online retailers.*

We earned slightly more than \$5,000 from the scrip program during the two month period of November and December. For the first eight months of the current fiscal year, scrip earnings have totaled \$13,800 - which is up almost 14% over the same period in the prior year. Thanks to all who continue to support this fundraising program!

Did you know that you can donate to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry and "Covenant-to-Care for Children" through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries (food pantry) or other retail stores (CC). For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries or clothing. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

We have most of the usual cards in inventory for immediate purchase this morning. Here is a partial list of cards typically available:

- Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendys
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace, Whole Foods
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Restaurants: Bertucci's, Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Toys R Us, Walmart

See Deb Copes at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered. Think SCRIP!

THINK SCRIP

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

January 10

10:00am **Worship & Epiphany Pageant** Sanctuary
4:00pm Siragu Tamil School Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27
6:00pm **Middle School Youth Group** Chapin Hall

January 11

7:00pm Women's AA
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

January 12

7:00pm **Council**
7:00pm Hearing Voices

January 13

9:00am **Breakfast Club**
6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

January 14

9:30am Little Hands in Harmony Room 25
7:30pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

January 15

Newsletter Deadline

January 16

8:30am Men's Bible Study
2:30pm Memorial Service
3:00pm Reception

Sunday

Monday

Chapin Hall
Loft

Tuesday

Fiorilli Rm
Room 25

Wednesday

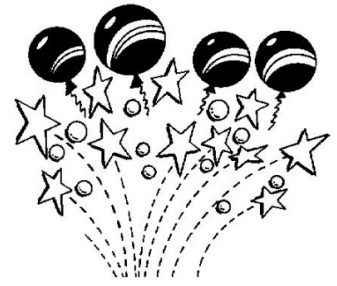
Bob's Cafe
Chapin Hall
Choir Room

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Fiorilli Rm
Sanctuary
Chapin Hall



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 10 Natalie Tine
Nicolis Alessi
11 Gregory Pickett
12 David Dean
13 Robert Speers
Louis DiRenzo
15 Mark Sheehan
16 Doris Schreier
Martin Sudell Jr
Kathryn Eichner

CALENDARS

Thanks to Travelers Insurance, we have copies of their lovely Currier and Ives calendar for 2016. If you are interested in having one, you may pick it up from the office.

The Parish Directory has been updated and copies are available in the church office. Stop by anytime during office hours. Monday through Thursday: 9am – 2pm, and Friday: 9am – Noon.



Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
805 Old Main Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Church Office: office@rhccucc.org / 860 529-4167

Church Website: rhccucc.org

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/rhccucc

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Open and Affirming Statement

Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian Faith,

We, the members of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

Approved by congregational vote June 2009

Ministry Team

Ministers: All the members of the church

Pastor: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing ccowing@rhccucc.org

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

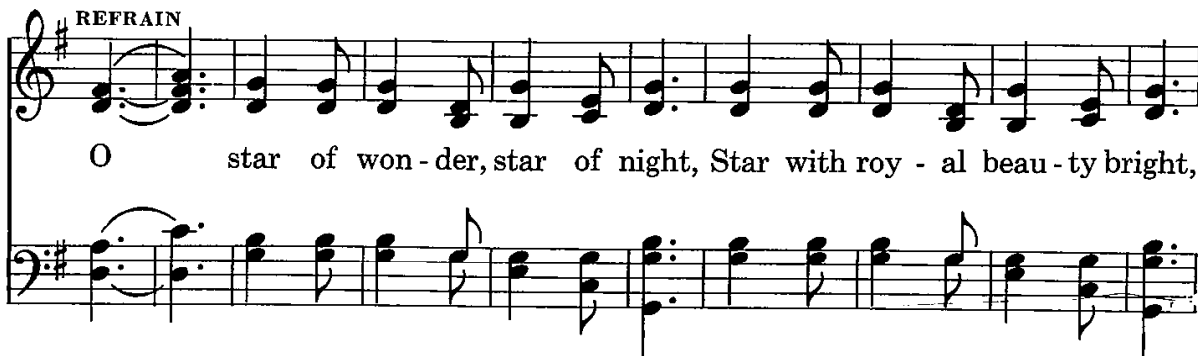
*John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.*KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. *with Refrain**John H. Hopkins, Jr.; 1820-1891**In unison*


1 We three kings of O-ri-ent are, Bear-ing gifts we trav-erse 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;

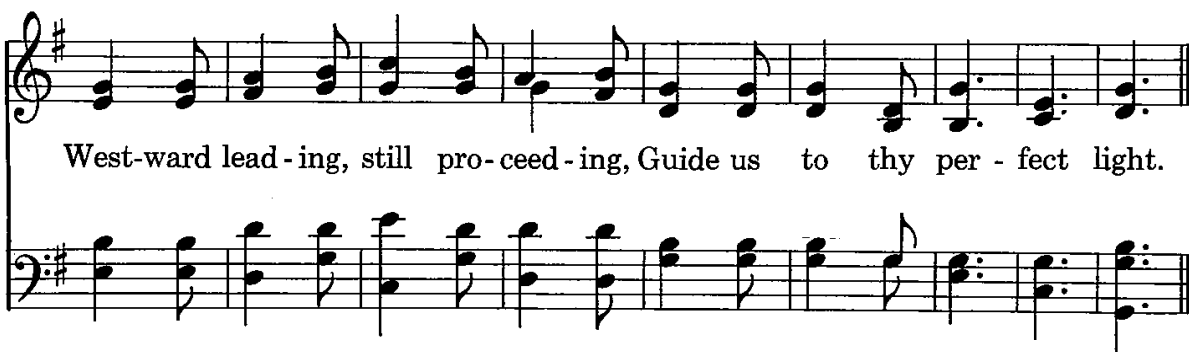


Field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, Fol-low-ing yon-der star.
 King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er O-ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais-ing, all men rais-ing, Wor-ship him, God on high.
 Sor-rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN



O star of won-der, star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright,

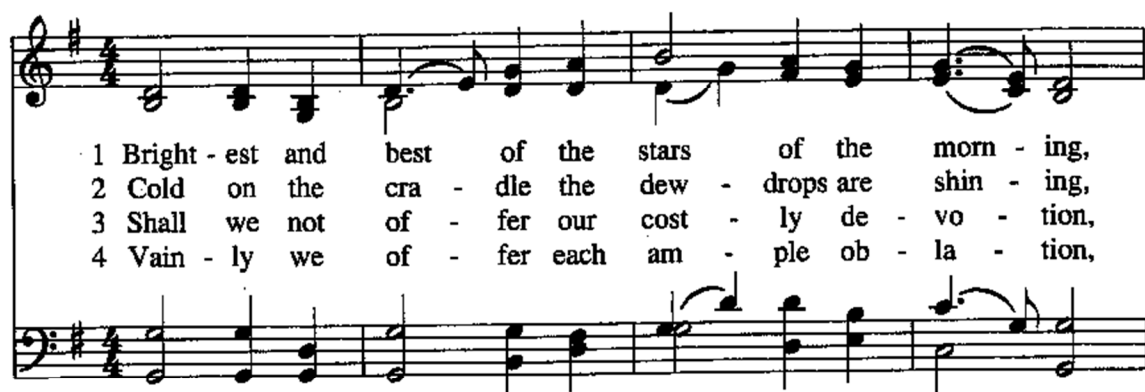


West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.

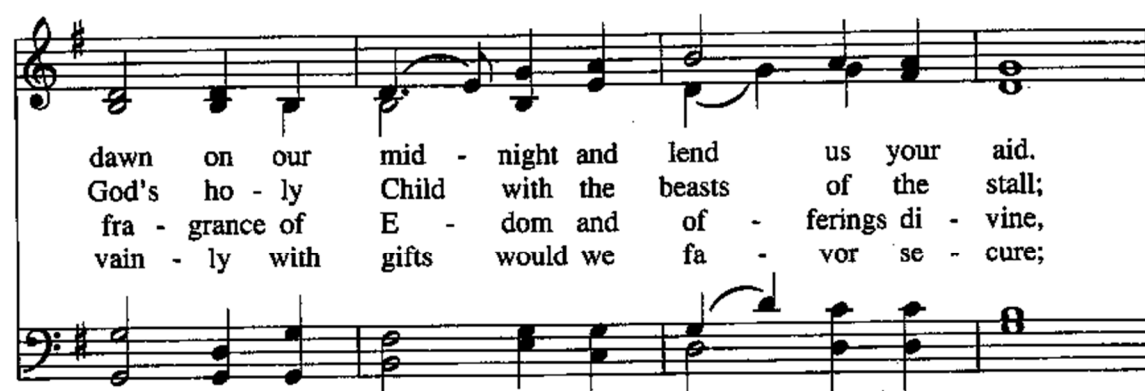
Brightest and Best

Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14

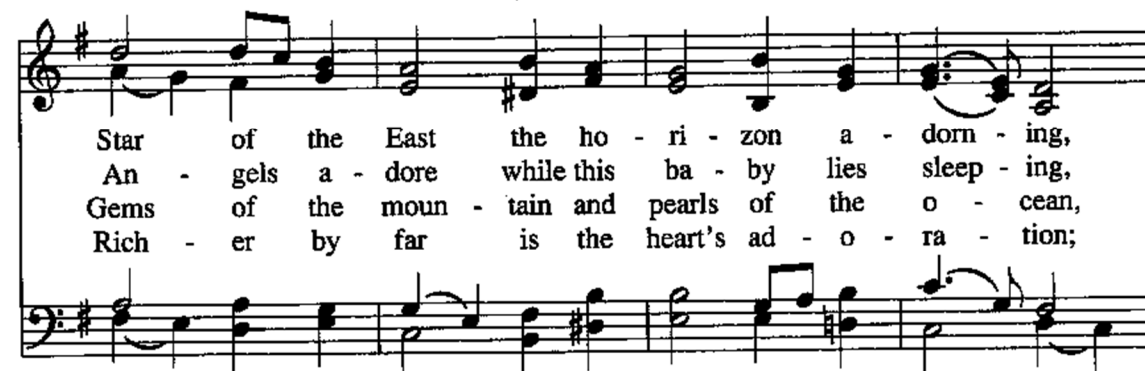
Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.



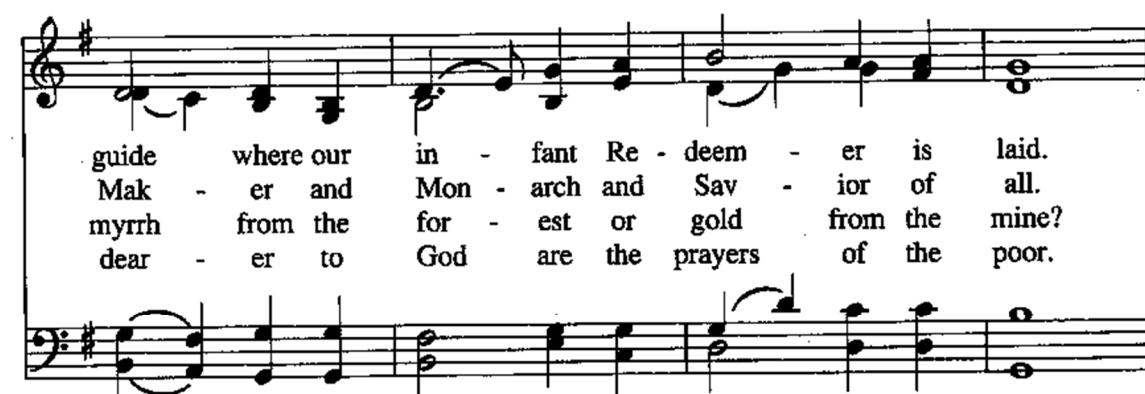
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.
 God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;



Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;



guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

This is thought to be one of the earliest tunes to which "Brightest and Best" was sung in the United States. It appears to be named for William Walker, the compiler of Southern Harmony, a nineteenth-century collection of American tunes.

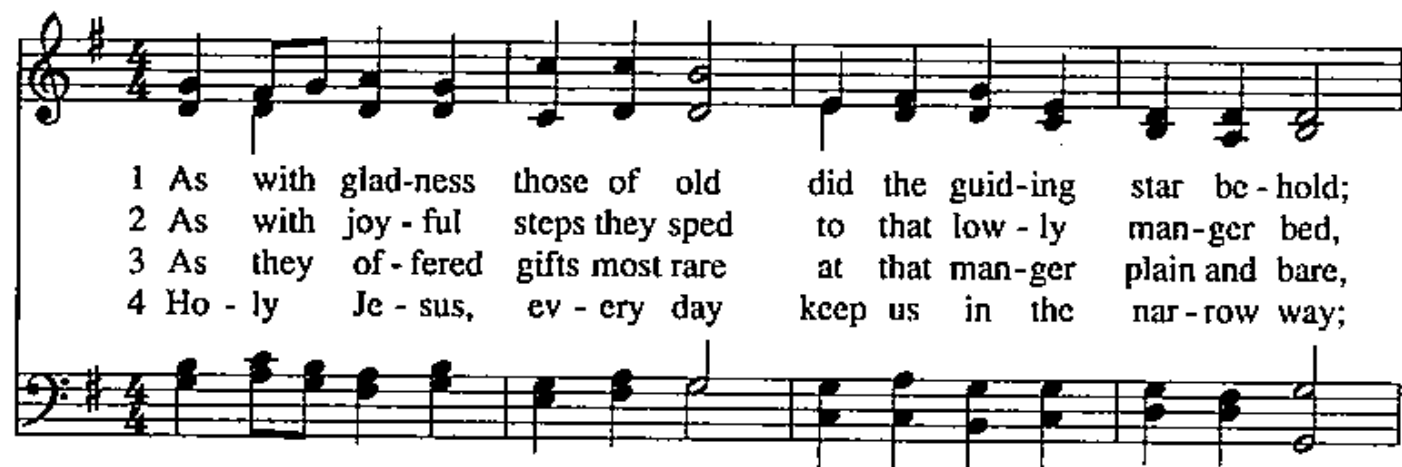
Tune: WALKER 11.10.11.10
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Jonathan McNair, 1994
 Alternate setting: MORNING STAR

As with Gladness Those of Old

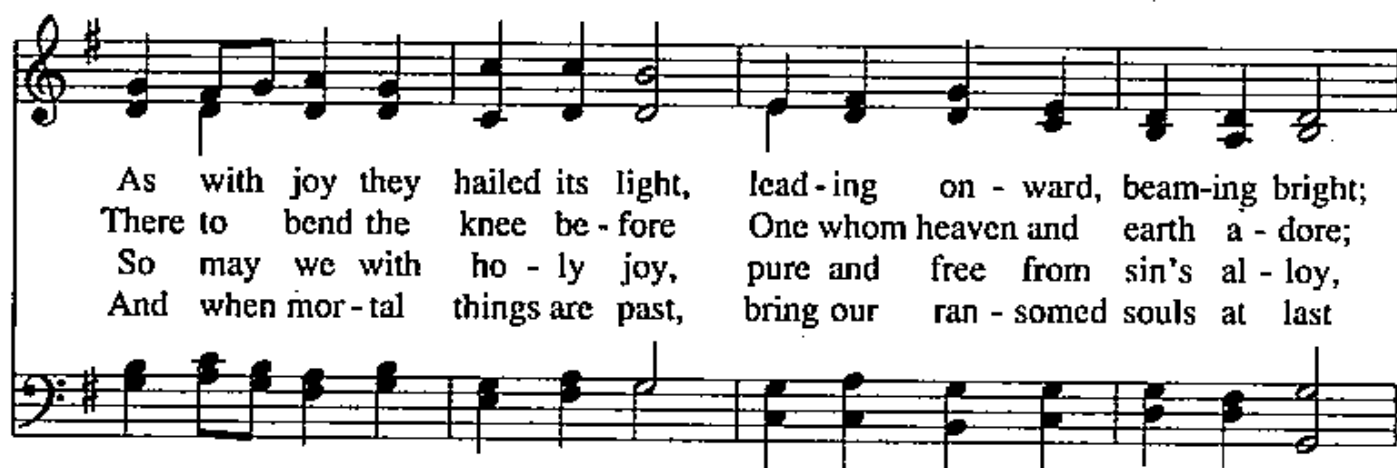
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William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

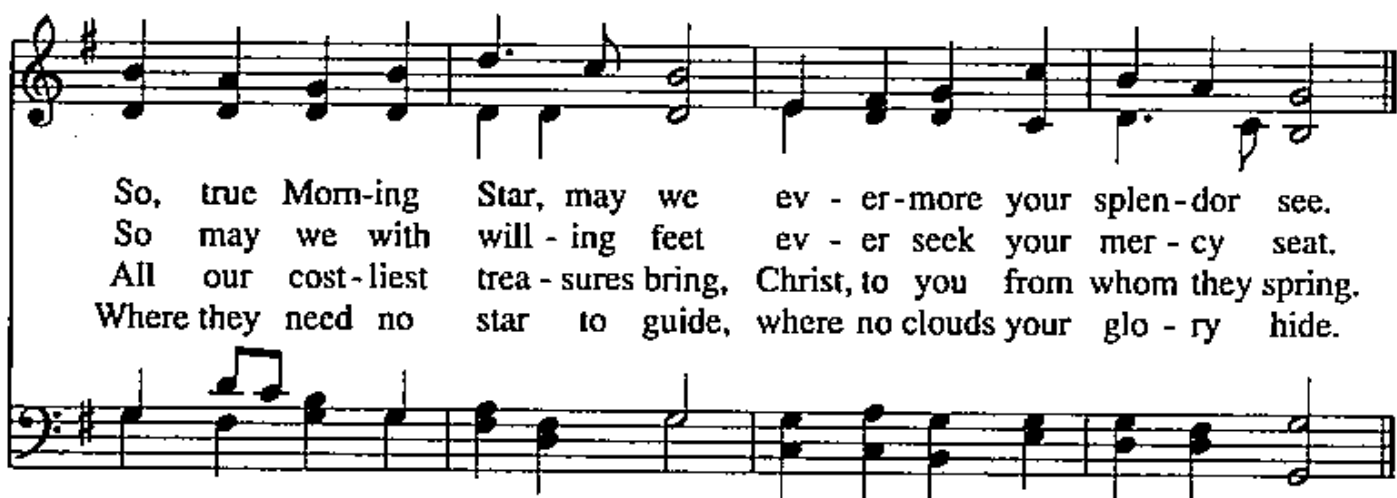
Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore One whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861