

January 6, 2024 HYMNS

Prelude Hymn (H) 112 - In the bleak midwinter

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim throngèd the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
- 4 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.

Opening Hymn: (H) 109 – The first Nowell – (vs 1-5)

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*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

Sequence Hymn: (H) 115 – What child is this

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. ***Refrain***

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. ***Refrain***

Hymn after the Epiphany Reflection: (H) 124 – What star is this, with beams so bright

- 1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beauteous than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.
- 2 True spake the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.
- 3 The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light,
and leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.
- 4 O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.
- 5 To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

Offertory Hymn: (H) 128 – We Three Kings

- 1 We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*
- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign.
Refrain
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High.
Refrain
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain
- 5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.
Refrain

Closing Hymn: (H) 119 – As with gladness men of old

- 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed;
there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus! every day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.