

**PARK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

309 East Colonial Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32801  
407-841-6550  
**January 3, 2021**

*The 2nd Sunday  
of Christmas  
And Epiphany*



Order of Worship 10:30 am

**GATHERING**

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Time of Silence

Prelude

Christmas Peace  
Will Benton, Organist

Phil Lehenbauer

Introit

Christmas Hallelujah  
Robb Ross, soloist

Music by Leonard Cohen  
Words by Cloverton

Call to Worship (ref. Matthew 2:1-11)

The magi came from many places, following a star.

**We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.**

The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**We too bring gifts—ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.**

Shepherds and magi, the meek and the mighty—all gathered in Bethlehem.

**We too come to worship God.**

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Hymn No. 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Pew Bible, O.T., page 690

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Source of salvation and Bringer of light, our sight is dull to the mystery of Your love. It is Your nature to forgive and gather, while we continue to bear grudges and build walls between our neighbors. Christ blesses the poor, while we hold tightly to our wealth. In Christ you have spoken peace, but we live in turmoil. Your goodness is spread throughout creation, but our stewardship of your world is thoughtless. In Your mercy, forgive us. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts and help us amend our ways. Hear our prayer. (moment of silent confession)**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God is righteous and just, and forgives the iniquity of all who repent. Like “rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth,” God’s goodwill overflows toward us in the Child of Bethlehem.

**Through that Child, who is our risen Lord, we receive God’s forgiveness and claim God’s mercy for us.**

Hymn 134 (verses 1,2)

Joy to the World!

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE WORD

Welcoming the Children

The children's bulletin is available on the plpc.org and the weekly Park Lake Up2date email.

Blessing of Children

tune - Hymn No. 535, Tallis Canon

***Go with them, Lord, and guide their way, through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true, their lives may be a gift to You.***

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pew Bible, N.T., page 180

Sermon

Gather Us In

Dr. Helen DeBevoise

Offertory

Rose of Bethlehem  
Robb Ross, soloist

Words and Music, Lowell Alexander

## THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion and the Lord's Prayer

## SENDING

Hymn No. 401

Here In This Place—Gather Us In

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

Toccata Giocosa  
Will Benton, organist

Gilbert Martin

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**Thank you** to our Live Stream Audio/Visual Team, John DiSalvo, Will DiSalvo, and John Bowers, and to our music team Robb Ross, Will Benton for bringing worship to our congregation today.

# 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 ful - 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.

# 134

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

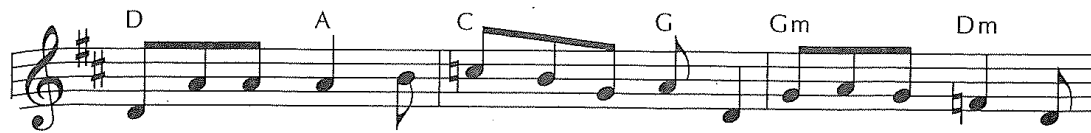
heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.