



First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor
Standing Tall on Morton Hill for Over 130 Years
December 28, 2025 • First Sunday After Christmas

We Are Gathered

Song *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
Joy to the World *Glory to God #134*

Candle Lighting and Centering Prayer

The Call to Worship

One: In worship, we hear God's story and we ask:

All: What did God do long ago?

What is God doing, here and now?

What can I do to respond to it all?

One: Listen, God is speaking.

Listen, it may be time to act.

**All: Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.
Amen!**

Song
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Glory to God #93*

Call to Confession *Please be seated*

Prayer of Confession

**All: Emmanuel, God with us,
scripture tells us that you were a refugee,
but we love to forget that information.
We love to forget every act of gun violence.
We love to forget how many people go hungry,
or how many students do not have access to good education.
We love to forget the injustices in our world
that feel too big for us to face.**

**But you are a God who refuses to forget.
Today we pray: make it impossible
for us to overlook the stories of those in need.
Make it impossible
for us to sweep injustice under the rug.
Open our eyes along with our hearts,
so that the anger we feel around injustice
might fuel a fire for action.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray,
amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
Go Tell It on the Mountain *Glory to God #136*

Passing the Peace

We Hear God's Word Together

Prayer for Illumination *Please be seated*

Song

Do You Hear What I Hear?

please see insert

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-9

Contemporary English Version

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,
'Bethlehem in the land of Judea,
you are very important among the towns of Judea.
From your town will come a leader
who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.' "

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I also want to go and worship him."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them.

Song *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Glory to God #151

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:9-12 *Contemporary English Version*

And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

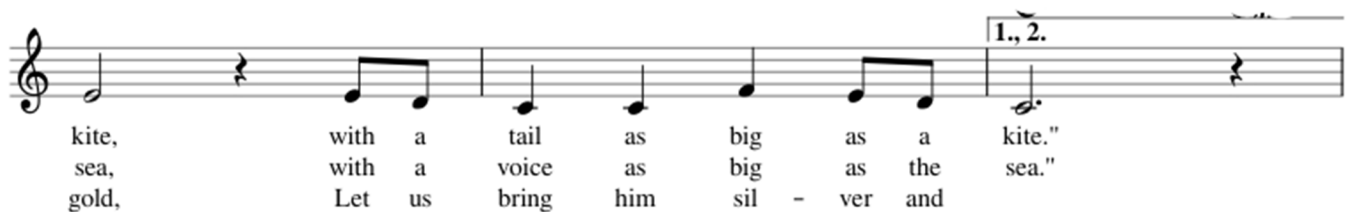
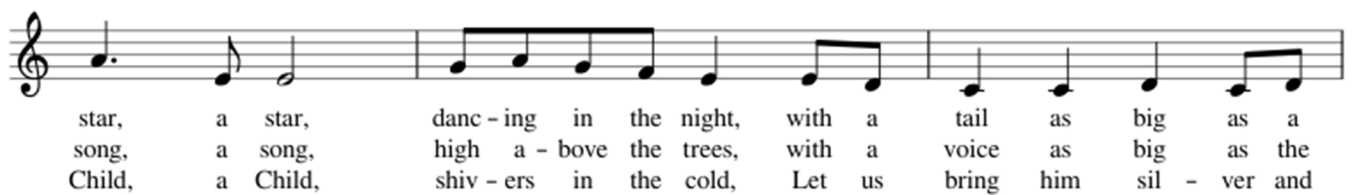
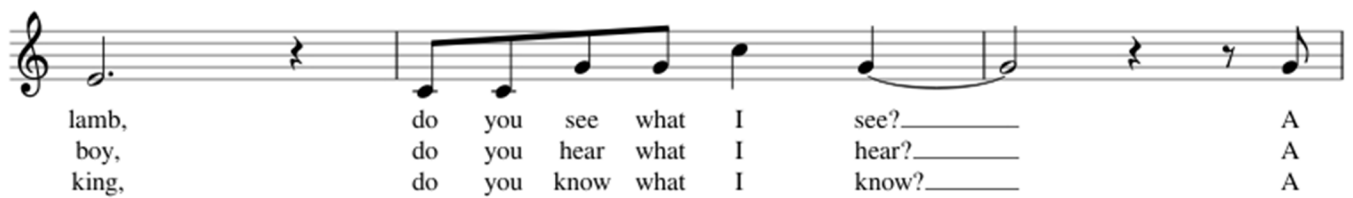
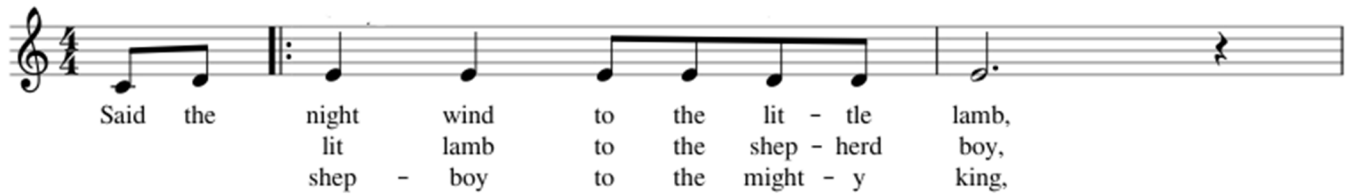
When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

Song

Please stand as you are able

What Child is This *Glory to God #145*

Do You Hear What I Hear



Scripture Reading*Please be seated*Matthew 2:13-18 *Contemporary English Version*

After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

When Herod found out that the wise men from the east had tricked him, he was very angry. He gave orders for his men to kill all the boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years old and younger. This was based on what he had learned from the wise men.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet Jeremiah had said,

"In Ramah a voice was heard crying and weeping loudly.

Rachel was mourning for her children,

and she refused to be comforted,

because they were dead."

Song

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

*Glory to God #123***Scripture Reading**Matthew 2:19-23 *Contemporary English Version*

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."

Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Song*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*Please see next page***Songs**

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which will be for all people." Luke 2:10*

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
3. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same;
and with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
this ho - ly Child of Christ - mas re - veals His sa - cred face.

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

GOD REST YOU MERRY

TEXT and MUSIC: English carol, 18th century; harm. by John Stainer, 1880

86.86.86

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

Doxology + The Prayer of Dedication

Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ all creatures here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Please be seated

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Are Sent by God

Song

Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Glory to God #119*

Benediction

Song

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *Glory to God #132*