



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*God dwells with us*

*Epiphany Sunday*

JANUARY 4, 2026 – 9:30 A.M.

secondbaptist

# We Keep Seeking

GATHERING MUSIC

Marilyn Arland

WELCOME

Carrie Veal

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carrie Veal

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...  
Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...  
Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...  
Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.  
God is here.

\*ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a  
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His  
mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed. Mary  
sheltered was a stable, and His cradle was a stall. With the  
was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.  
poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior ho- ly.

Words and Music by Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander | Henry John Gauntlett | Public Domain

DEACON RECOGNITION

Sue Hill

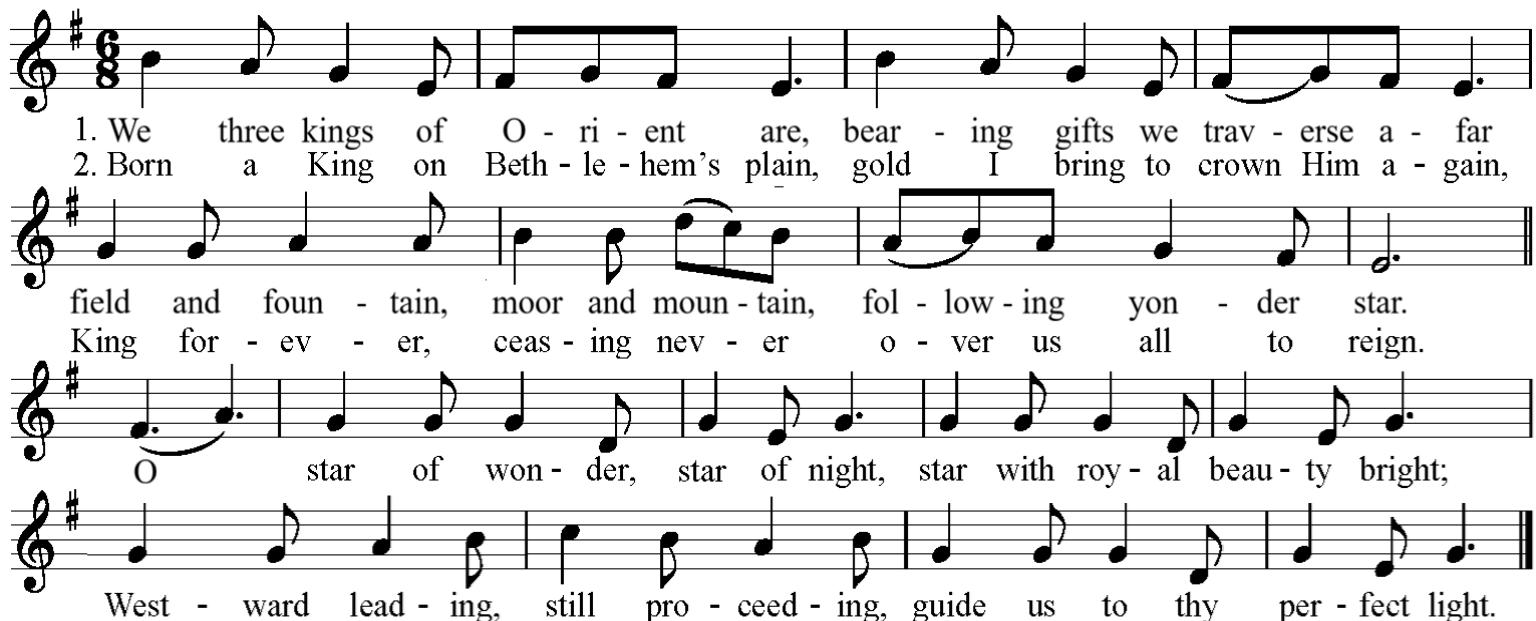
CHILDREN'S TIME

Annie Bray

All children are invited to come forward. Following Children's Time,  
All children who are returning to the Children's Wing are invited to room #102.

# WE THREE KINGS

# KINGS OF ORIENT



1. We three kings of Ori-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,  
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.  
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.

John Henry Hopkins Jr. | Public Domain

## ★GOSPEL READING

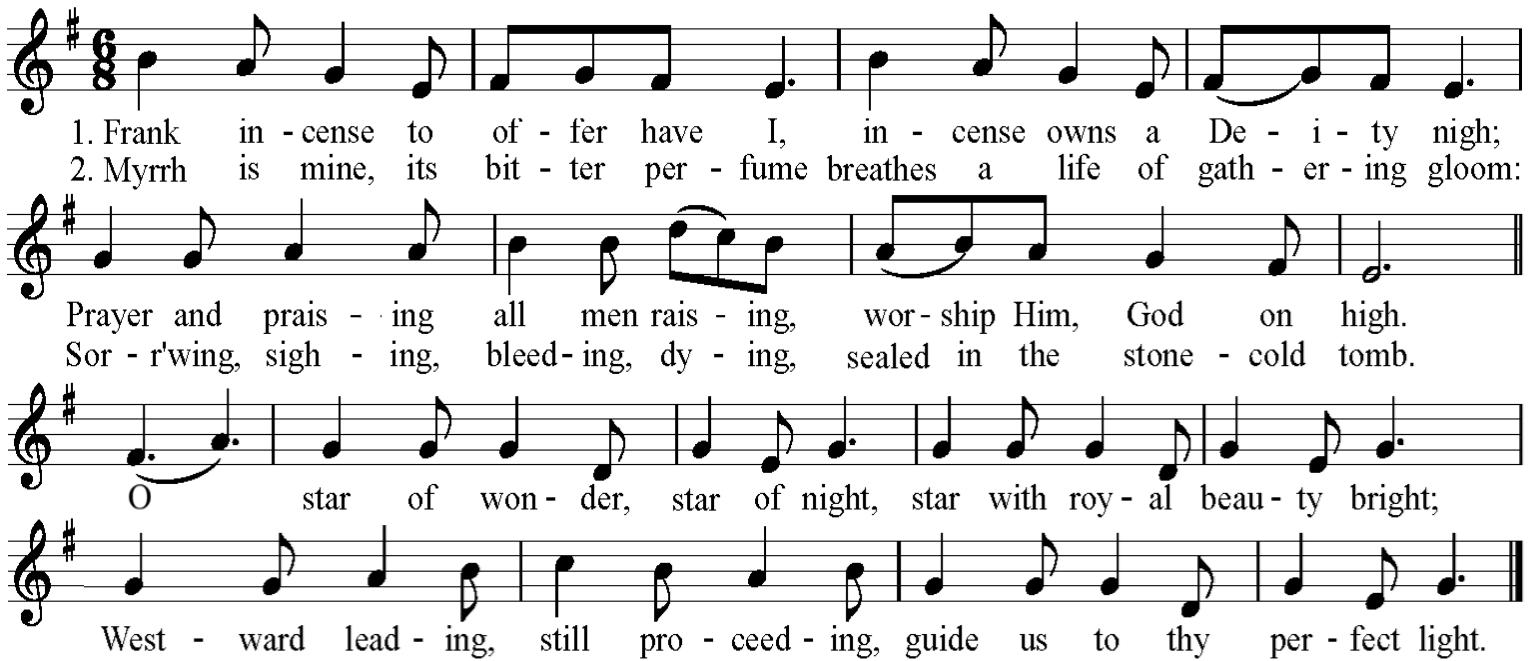
Josh McDonald

MATTHEW 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## ★WE THREE KINGS

KINGS OF ORIENT



1. Frank in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;  
2. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:  
Prayer and prais - ing all men rais - ing, wor -ship Him, God on high.  
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed- ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
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.

## PROCLAMATION

Carrie Veal

*STARS AND WORDS AND JOURNEYS OH MY!*

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of today, tomorrow, and yesterday, like the Magi, we are seeking you. Like the Magi, we are bringing ourselves closer to you, step by step, and word by word. So today we ask that you would make yourself known to us. Reach into our spirits and give us a boost of confidence that love is real and we are not alone. We know we're asking a lot for a group that brings very little. We don't have gold or frankincense or myrrh. We haven't spent the last several days traveling here by camel. We're no Magi, but we're yours. Instead, we bring ourselves to this worship service in hopes of catching a glimpse of you. And we bring with us the concerns of our church and community. As you hold the concerns of our community, we look for the ways you guide us forward.

We pray that you would speak to us through these star words that we are about to receive, just as you have spoken to your people before. Let these words be an invitation and challenge for the year ahead; let them be light in the sky that guides us home. Holy God, you were the God of yesterday, and we know you'll be the God of tomorrow, for you have loved us from generation to generation. So with grateful hearts, we pray together the words your son taught us to pray, saying:

Our God who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

You are invited to dedicate your life to Christ, join our faith community, or answer a call from God to do ministry in this world by coming forward and share this decision with a pastor.

### \*AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

DIX



1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
2. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
And, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
So, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Words and Music by Conrad Kocher | William Chatterton Dix | Public Domain

## THE MORNING OFFERING

Please drop your connection card and offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to donate online, please go to [secondb.org/give](http://secondb.org/give) or Venmo @secondbaptistlbk.

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Becky Corley

### OFFERTORY

Marilyn Arland

## ★PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please share the peace with those near you.

## ★AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

DIX

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.

## ★BENEDICTION

Carrie Veal

God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us. Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly.

May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with the saints before us. Amen.

# THIS WEEK AT 2B

## TODAY

COFFEE DUTY - Connections Class

9:30 am: Worship & Livestream

10:45 am: Bible Study, Youth Ministry

4:00 pm: Bells Gloria Rehearsal - Room #101

6:00 pm: Second Chance Al-Anon - Room #134

## TUESDAY, January 6

6:30 am: Tuesday Morning Prayer Group @ Chicken Run Café

11:00 am: B&B Book Club Meeting - Room #123

6:00 pm: Learn to Play Mahjong - Room #130

## WEDNESDAY, January 7

10:00 am: Beginners Bridge - Room #130

12:00 pm: 2b Care Ministry - Room #126

2:00 pm: Senior Adult Fellowship - Room #130

4:00 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Center

## THURSDAY, January 8

6:45 am: Jesus and Grits @ Chicken Run Café

## WE TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer cards are available. Please place your filled out card and offerings in the box on the rear wall of the Worship Hall or place in the offering plate as it is passed during worship.

## ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE.

Please ask an usher for assistance as you enter the sanctuary for worship.

## EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Carrie Veal  
*Senior Pastor*  
Annie Bray  
*Interim Associate Pastor of Children and Families*  
Zachary Carpenter  
*Communications Coordinator*  
Tracy Douthitt  
*Director of Business Operations*  
Larry Landusky  
*Pianist*

Rev. Dr. Tim Lyles  
*Executive Pastor*  
Rev. Josh McDonald  
*Youth Pastor*  
Mike Spann  
*Director of Operations*  
Joni Lynch  
*Church Hostess*  
Marilyn Arland  
*Organist*

Rev. Charles Foster Johnson  
*Pastor Emeritus*

## VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Stacy Elliott  
La Nelle Ethridge  
Mark Flenniken

Sue Hill  
Mike King  
Dianne Powell

Allie Smith



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