



The Visit of the Three Wise Men (artist unknown)

Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

January 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

About the service:

Worship space: on ZOOM

Worship leader and preacher: Rev. Tom van Milligen

Elder of service: Dan Carter

Zoom host: Sonay S.

Reader: Peter McBride

Song leaders: Leanne Chuba, Sarah M.

Children's bulletins: ReINETTE du Preez

Reflection — *The Journey Of The Magi* by T.S. Eliot

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.¹
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,

With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Welcome and introduction — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Call to worship — Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV) — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

People of God,

Let us rise, joyfully, and join the multitude of nations,
and go to Jesus Christ, the light of the world, the heaven born Prince
of Peace,
and worship and adore him, our everlasting Lord.

God's greeting — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Song of praise — LUYH 92 — *Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.

Psalm of acclamation — Psalm 72 (NRSV)

Of Solomon.

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
- ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ⁹ May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

¹⁵ Long may he live!
May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.
¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.
¹⁷ May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.
¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.
²⁰ The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.

Song of acclamation — LUYH 100 — *Jesus, the Light of the World*

1. Hark, the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King.
Jesus, the light of the world.
2. Joyful, all ye nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world

By the power of your Spirit, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
In times of joy and gladness, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
In times of sorrow and despair, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
Grateful for the light of your Word, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

Grateful for the gift of your church, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

Called to witness your love, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

3. Christ, by highest heaven adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world.
4. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

Words: ref. George D. Elderkin; st. Charles Wesley (1707-1788), P.D.

Call to confession — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Prayer of confession — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Assurance of forgiveness — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Song of assurance — LUYH 567 — *Here I Am to Worship*

1. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain

Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Refrain

I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

Refrain

Words: Tim Hughes; acc. Ed Bolduc © 2001 Thankyou Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com
(excl. Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs)

Prayer for illumination — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Scripture reading — Matthew 2 (NIV) — Rev. Tom van Milligen

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *"Surprise: Who Invited these Wise Guys?"* — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Song of response — LUYH 693 — *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*
English and Farsi

1. Amazing grace— how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Refrain

My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood, his mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Refrain

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: John Newton (sts), refrain by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio © 2006 worshiptogether.com
Songs/sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, admin. EMI CMG Publishing

Prayers of God's people — Dan Carter

Virtual Offering Plate

1st Offering, Church Ministries, by cheque to the church or by online banking at any one of the 5 big banks, DUCA and Tangerine.

2nd Offering, Toronto City Mission, by cheque to the church.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Apostles' Creed — in English and Farsi

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

من ایمان دارم به خدای پدر قادر مطلق، خالق آسمان و زمین، و به پسر یگانه او خداوند
ما عیسی مسیح که به واسطه روح القدس در رحم قرار گرفت و از مریم باکره متولد شد
و در حکومت پنطیوس پیلاطس الم کشید و مصلوب شده بمرد و مدفون گردید، و به عالم
ارواح نزول کرد و در روز سوم از مردگان برخاست، به آسمان صعود نموده و به دست
راست خدای پدر قادر مطلق نشسته است و از آنجا خواهد آمد و زندگان و مردگان را
داوری نماید و من ایمان دارم به روح القدس و به کلیسای مقدس جامع و به شرکت
مقدسین و به آمرزش گناهان و به قیامت ابدان و به حیات جاودان. آمین

Benediction — Rev. Tom van Milligen

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for those of us **struggling with health issues** visible and unseen, may the Lord comfort us as give strength.

Please pray for the **caregivers** of our church, may the Lord provide them all with strength, compassion, and moments of joy in each new day, and courage to reach out for help.

Please pray for the **spiritual wellbeing** of our church family, preachers, Council, volunteers, and staff.

Please pray for protection from the new COVID-19 variants, help those who need their **booster shot** receive it in a timely manner.

Please pray for our **1st offering** for our **church ministries and expenses**, faithful giving is a blessing to our whole church family.

Please pray for our **2nd offering** cause; Toronto City Mission.

Birthdays:

January 9 — Mehrsa K.

January 14 — Ann G.

January 15 — Fred d. J.

Preaching Schedule:

January 16 — Pastor Syd Hielema

January 23 — Rev. Lesli Van Milligen

January 30 — Rev. Lesli Van Milligen

Zoom Host Schedule:

January 16 — Peter G.

January 23 — Sonay S.

January 30 — Alana Y.

Joyfully Singing & Monday Morning Zoom Singing:

Joyfully Singing on Monday nights in the church Sanctuary will be on hiatus until further notice.

Monday Morning Zoom Singing continues every Monday at 10:00 a.m., please contact Hye-jin Im for Zoom details.

Farsi Fellowship:

Farsi Fellowship Zoom meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (on Zoom) Everyone is welcome. Translations will be provided if need be. Contact Sylvie Charliekaram for more information (sylvieckaram@gmail.com).

مشارکت فارسی زبان و مطالعه کتاب مقدس، پنجشنبه ها از ساعت ۷ الی ۹.
از طریق زوم برقرار می باش

Willowdale CRC Ward Elders and Deacons:

Elders and deacons are available to assist you with your spiritual and practical needs. We would appreciate hearing from you if there is any way they can help.

Note that **confidential counselling services** are available through the **Congregational Assistance Programme (CAP)**. You are entitled to **six free** counselling sessions. Call for help: 1 866-347-0041.

Lastly, if you are struggling financially, and it is a challenge to buy groceries, please contact your deacon for confidential help.

Moore Park Ward

(North of Drewry Ave./Cummer Ave. and west of Tome St. south of Steeles Ave; Yonge St. north of Steeles Ave.)

Elders: Sarah Moghadam, WilmaJoy Veenstra

Deacons: Suzanne Christie, Sara Davarpanah

Branson Ward

(South of Drewry Ave./Cummer Ave. and west of Tome St. plus Brampton and Mississauga)

Elders: Reinette du Preez, Sylvie Charliekaram

Deacons: Nell de Boer, Kyle Pippel

Markham Ward

(East of Yonge St. for region north of Steeles Ave.; east of Tome St. south of Steeles Ave.)

Elders: Dan Carter, Kamran Mozafarzadeh

Deacons: Joyce McBride, Ferdinand Cruz, Mahkam Sadjadi

John Meiboom, as chair of council, is also available for care visits as needed in any ward.

In addition to the elders and deacons helping the Willowdale CRC community, there is a small support team known as the **Care Team**, who are on standby to help in each ward:

Branson - Angie Arguelles, Beatrice Vandervelde

Markham - Bobby Vandenbrink

Moore Park - Hye-jin Im

Floater - Alana Yoneyama, Peter Grauds, Jennifer Dekker, Nasser Zand

For the contact information for your Ward Elders and/or Deacons, please email Alana at office@willowdalecrc.com or alana.yoneyama@willowdalecrc.com

Online Giving e-Transfer Instructions:

All e-Transfers should be remitted to the following email address - treasurer@willowdalecrc.com and please **use the following password – budget.**

Please ensure you mention your envelope number in the memo section so that your donation can be properly recorded towards your envelope number and will get credited towards your annual donation receipt. If you don't have an envelope number please send a separate email with your full name and address so a tax receipt can be issued at year end. For second collections/offerings please be reminded that donations continue to be accepted by cheques mailed to the church.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Mark VanHelden at treasurer@willowdalecrc.com or Cathy De Peuter at cathydepeuter@gmail.com Thank you for supporting the church's operations budget!

