REORIENTED

Following the Magi



First Sunday in Advent

November 29th 2026 | 10:30am

For Those Who Have Far to Travel
(stanzas 1 and 2)

If you could see
the journey whole,
you might never
undertake it,
might never dare
the first step
that propels you
from the place
you have known
toward the place
you know not.

Call it
one of the mercies
of the road:
that we see it
only by stages
as it opens
before us,
as it comes into
our keeping,
step by
single step.

-Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace*
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Cover Art

Follower of Rogier van der Weyden, *Polyptych* (detail), mid-15th century. Tempera and oil. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Cloisters Collection, 1949 (49.109).

This detail depicts several elements from the *Revelation of the Magi*. Look for the infant Christ appearing in the star, the holy mountain of the Magi, and the Magi bathing in their sacred spring.

Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning. For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved

Prelude **Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ**

Greensleeves -R. Vaughan Williams

Ringing of the Trinity

Welcome **Hillary Raley**

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Choral Introit **Senior Choir**

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

***Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:3-5** **Rusty Edwards**

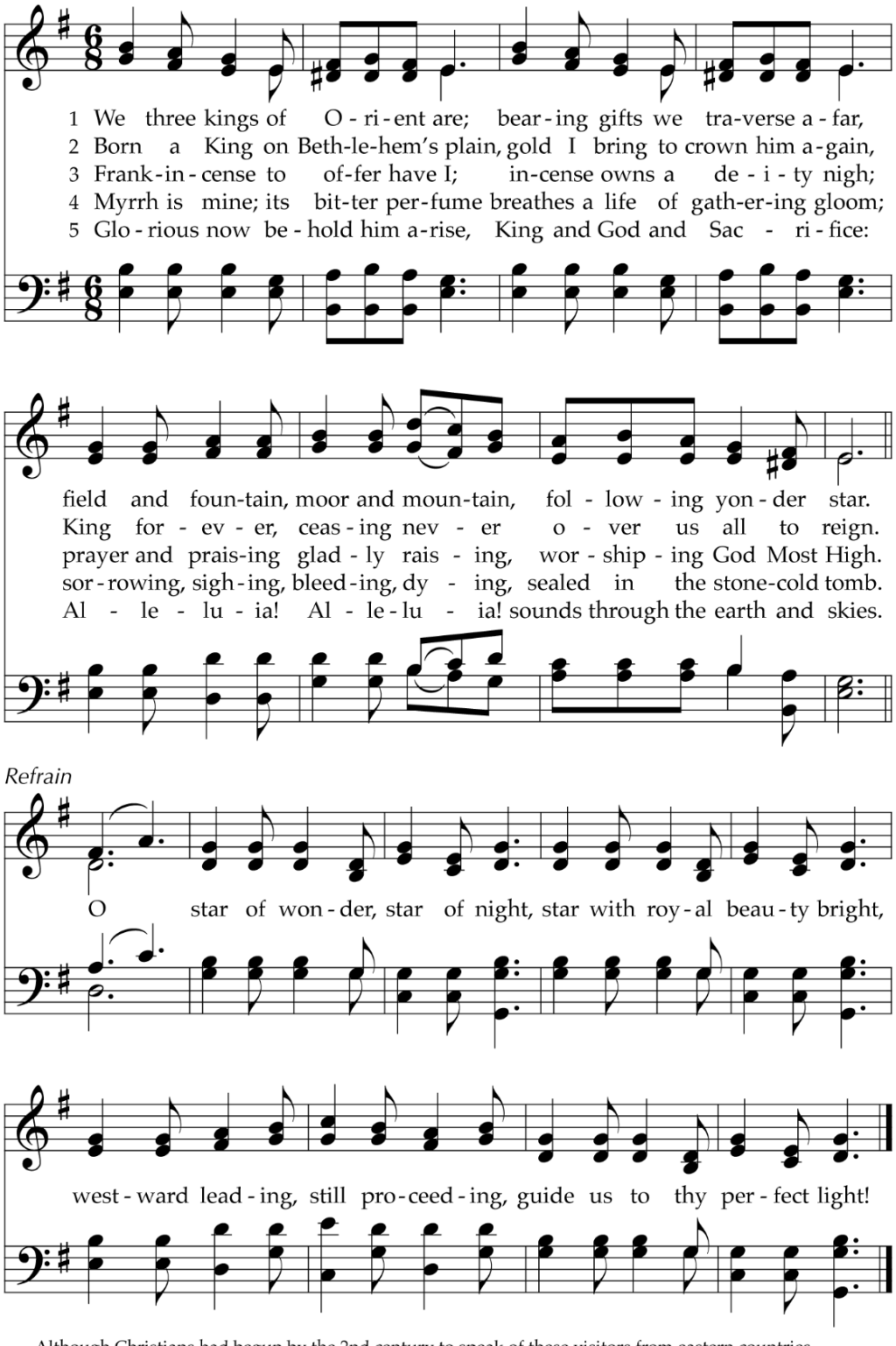
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

40:3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of The Eternal;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of The Eternal shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of The Eternal has spoken."

Silent Reflection

***Processional Carol (next page)**

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6 with refrain

Lighting of the Hope Candle **Youth Group**

The Magi saw a star rise, and they set out. In her blessing for the journey, Jan Richardson names "one of the mercies of the road: that we see it only by stages as it opens before us."

Give us eyes to see what is opening before us,
and courage to take the next step.

What is hope? Hope is…

Today we light the Candle of Hope.

May this small light guide the travellers.
May it warm those who feel far from home.
May it remind us that God is with us.

May it be so! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song:

***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (vs. 1)**

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to everyone,
God fulfills the promise.

Advent Prayer of Approach

God of the journey, gather us out of the hurry of our days and help us notice the small signs of hope we might otherwise pass by. As we prepare to enter the mystery of Christmas, reorient our lives toward the Way of the child born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Children's Hymn

We Three Kings

O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!"

Children's Story **Rusty Edwards**

***Blessing of the Children**

Beloved children of our church family: may God's Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God's love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play. Today's formation activities: Music & Godly Play Story.

***Doxology - VENI EMMANUEL**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O People of God!

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-2

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2:1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "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."

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection **Rusty Edwards**

Reoriented: Notice

Anthem **Sr. Choir**

There is No Rose - Britten (A Ceremony of Carols)

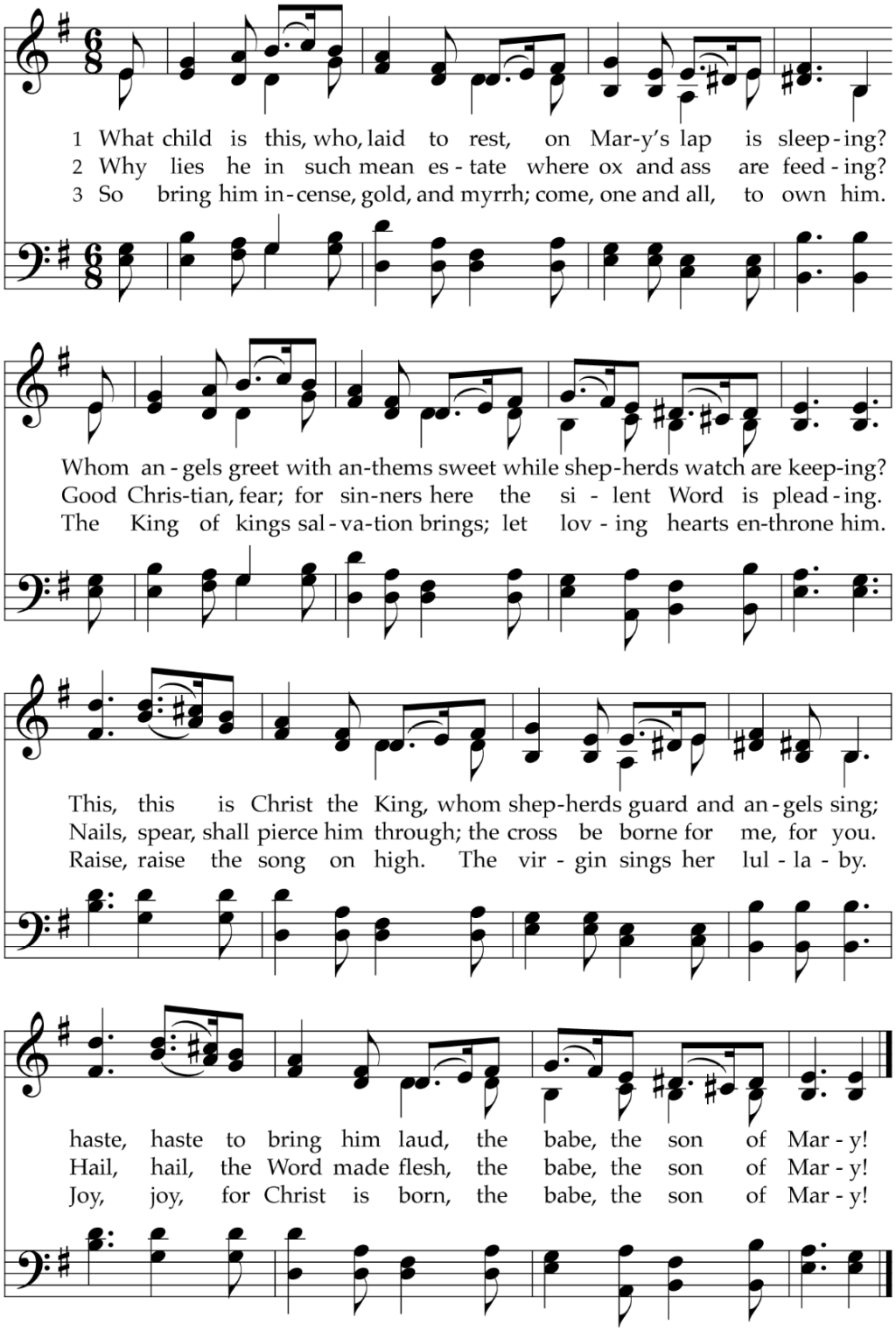
Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Recessional Carol (next page)**

145 What Child Is This



This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old,* 1871

GREENSLEEVES
8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

Benediction **Rusty Edwards**

Amen

Postlude **Lynette Wahlstrom, Piano**

The First Noel -arr. John Carter

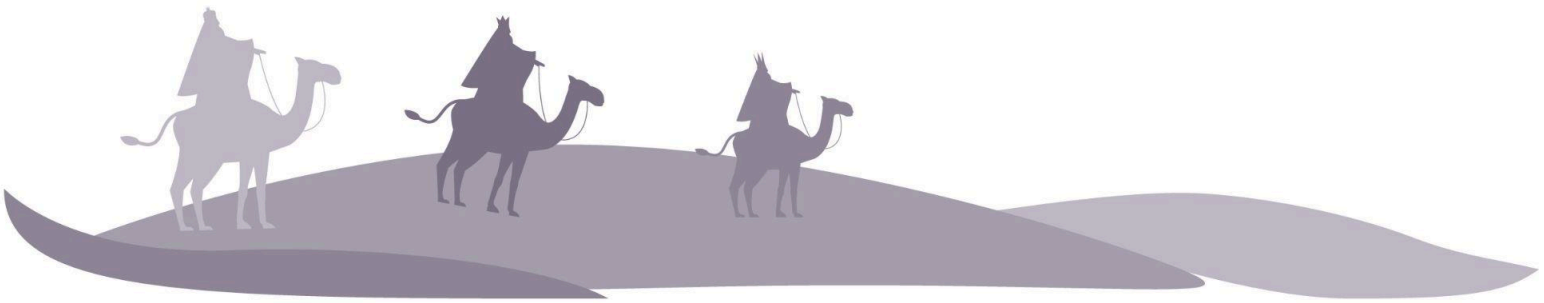
The Week Ahead at FBCH

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

Sunday, November 29
10:30am - Sunday Worship: Advent 1
11:30am - Mini Sale; Parlour
12:00pm - Youth Group; Ronald McDonald House
7:00pm - Revelation of the Magi Book Group; Zoom

Thursday, December 3
7:00pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, December 6
Cookie Boxes available to Pick Up
10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
12:00pm- Just Lunch (Feast of St. Nicholas)



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HALIFAX

BREAKING STEREOTYPES SINCE 1827

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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