

**Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106**

*Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel  
(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)*

***Epiphany Sunday***

**January 5, 2025  
10:30am MT**

**Order of Worship**

Welcome

Rev. Charlotte Hoppe

Prelude

*Herzliebster Jesu [Op. 122, #2]  
by Johannes Brahms*

Paulette McClellan

\*Call to Worship (based in part on Psalm 113)

Ken O'Rourke

One: How did you get here?

**Left: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**

**Right: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.**

**Left: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**

**Right: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.**

**Many: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

**Many: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.**

One: Welcome home! This is God's house. There is room for you here.

**Many: Let us worship our gracious God.**

\*Opening Hymn

*We Three Kings*

172

\*Opening Prayer

Ken

God of starlight, we long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us, draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Ken

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in

the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Hymn

*Brightest and Best*

174

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with Rev. Dawn at [revdawn@montevista.org](mailto:revdawn@montevista.org).)

Pastoral Prayer

Charlotte

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother. Holy is your name. May your love be embodied in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Protect us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Special Music

*One King*

Laurel Deming, solo

by Jeff & Gayla Borders & Alexander Lowell

Sermon Text

Matthew 2:1-12

Charlotte

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*"Words for the Beginning: The Road Isn't Straight"*

Charlotte

\*Response in Song

*The First Noel*

151 (vv 3-5)

Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

Invitation to the Table

Charlie Tatlock

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on [our website](#), on the [Givelify app](#), or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)

|                                     |   |           |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| *Communion Hymn                     | <i>Down to Earth</i>                                | 168       |
| Words of Institution                |   | Charlotte |
| Prayers for the Elements            |   | Charlie   |
| Receiving Communion                 |   |           |
| Prayer of Thanksgiving              |   | Charlotte |
| Invitation to the Community of MVCC |   | Charlotte |
| *Closing Hymn                       | <i>God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing</i>           | 659       |
| *Announcements                      |   | Charlotte |
| *Benediction                        |   | Charlotte |
| Postlude                            | <i>In Dulci Jubilo, Nun Singet</i><br>by J. S. Bach | Paulette  |

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Ken O'Rourke, Worship Leader  
Wally Miller, Sound

Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist  
Rev. Charlotte Hoppe, Preaching  
Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister



172

We Three Kings

All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 Opt. Solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 Opt. Solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 Opt. Solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; Christ and

1. gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2. bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,  
 3. owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4. life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5. God and sac - ri - fice: al - le - lu - ia,

1. moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2. ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 3. voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
 4. bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5. al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain (after 1 & 5 only)*

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Brightest and Best

Unison Gm Bb Dm

1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
3. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

Cm Dm Gm

dawn on our path - way and lend us your aid.  
vain - ly with gifts Je - sus' fa - vor se - cure.

Bb Dm

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion.

Cm Dm Gm

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Dear - er to God are the gifts of the poor.

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1811, alt.  
MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Marty Haugen, 1987

STAR IN THE EAST  
11 10.11 10D

Dm F Gm

2. Shall we give Je - sus our cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

C Dm Cm Dm

fra - grance of E - dom, and of - f'rings di - vine,  
dawn on our path - way, and lend us your aid;

Gm Cm Gm B♭ Dm

gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Cm Dm Gm

myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

The First Noel

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star three  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er  
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

1. cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 2. in the east, be - yond them far, and to the  
 3. wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 4. Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it  
 5. rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered

1. they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 2. earth it gave great light, and so it con -  
 3. king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 4. did both stop and stay, right ov - er the  
 5. there, in his pres - ence, their gold and

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century)  
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

THE FIRST NOEL  
 Irr. w. refrain

BIRTH

*Descant*

No - el, No - el, No -

*Refrain*

1. night that was so deep.  
2. tin-ued both day and night.  
3. star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
4. place where Je - sus lay.  
5. myrrh and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.



## Down to Earth

168

*Unison*

1. Down to earth as a dove, came to all,  
2. This is love come to light, now is fear  
3. Je - sus Christ comes to feed hun - gry ones

ho - ly love; Je - sus Christ from a - bove bring - ing great sal - va - tion,  
put to flight. God de - feats ev - il's blight; giv - ing for our sor - rows,  
in their need; in the house there is bread: Je - sus in a sta - ble,

*Refrain*

meant for ev - ery na - tion.  
hope of new to - mor - rows. Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring,  
in the church a ta - ble.

spring, spring. Christ is here, ev - er near! Glo - ria in ex - cel - sis.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968  
MUSIC: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Gustav Holst, 1925

PERSONENT HODIE  
666.66 w. refrain

# 439 God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1. God, dis-miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.

WORDS: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.

MUSIC: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

SICILIAN MARINERS  
 87.87.87