

Worship at Trafalgar Presbyterian Church December 31st, 2023
Livestream link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnYjzsqCDNQ>

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEDITATION MUSIC:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

OPENING CAROL: *I saw three ships (various verses)* (17th cen Eng; Wm Sandys)

♫ *I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas day in the morning.*

*And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas day, on Christmas day?
And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas day in the morning?*

*Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas day in the morning.*

*O they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas day in the morning.*

*And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day in the morning.*

*And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, on Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, on Christmas day in the morning.*

CHILDREN'S TIME:

PRAYER:

LORD'S PRAYER: (spoken)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

♫ *Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, & to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, Amen*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11a; John 1:1-5; 14, 16-17

Reader: Rhodes Arnold

This is the word of the Lord - ...thanks be to God.

CAROL: #136 *The First Nowell* (vs 2,3,4 & 6)

(17th cen Eng trad)

♪ 2. *They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

***Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
Born is the King of Israel)***

3. *And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to search for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)*

4. *This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)*

6. *Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our souls has bought. (Refrain)*

MESSAGE: "Risking to follow God's stars"

CLOSING HYMN: #808 vs 1,2 4 (tune 267) *Come in New Year!*

(Shirley Murray)

♪ *Come, in, come in, New Year with *sparkling winter day*
Your promise calls us here to celebrate and pray,
through January's open door, to stride with hopeful step once more.*

2. *Come in, New Year, and sell your wares of chance and change:
engage us with your spell to risk and rearrange,
to feel the Spirit's impulse beat, to follow down a different street.*

4. *The calendar of Christ will mark the seasons' turn,
His story claim our trust, his love be ours to learn.
For all the world, for young and old we pray a year of peace unfold!*

BENEDICTION:

BLESSING SONG: *Go now in peace*

(Don Besig)

POSTLUDE: