

First Christian Church, Chehalis

January 6, 2018

Order of service:

Adult Bible Studies

- Sunday morning adult Sunday School in the library at 10:00am
- Sonshine Seekers Sunday School in their classroom at 10:00am
- Wednesday Bible Study - 2:00 – 3:00pm - "The Book of Acts"

Outreach Ministry

Christian Women's Fellowship meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon for a potluck and an outreach project.

Shoebox Ministry

This ministry is part of the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Effort.

Franklin Graham – President - Samaritanspurse.org.

CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

If anyone has a crib, wheelchair, walker, gait belt, we would accept it. We want to have supply of items for the use of our congregation.

CWF Project:

We are collecting items for our Lewis County Animal Shelter. Items needed at this time are: wood pellets (used for litter and found at stores like Tractor Supply, The Farm Store), cost is about \$4.00 a bag; kitten food; dog food; 45 gallon size trash bags; kitten toys; always need kennel blankets. The blankets can be made by quartering blankets or quilts and sewing the raw edges rather than purchasing actual kennel pads. Please help us help them.

We are also focusing our efforts on the Gospel Mission. Outerwear such as gloves, hats, scarves, hand warmers and rain gear are greatly appreciated.

Opening prayer / scripture – John Johnstone

We Three Kings Of Orient Are, hymn #116 – verses 1,2,5

NOTE: the origin of this song is explained on the following page.

Prayer – John Johnstone

Wonderful, Merciful Savior, (on screen only) – all verses

We Declare Your Majesty, (on screen only) sing twice

Sacrament of Communion – John Johnstone

Offering Thought and Prayer – Julie Erwin

MESSAGE: "The Wise Men Cometh..."

There's Within My Heart A Melody, hymn #346 – verses 1,5

Closing prayer – John Johnstone

Food for Thought:
Grow your faith in the New Year...

“We Three Kings Of Orient Are” - The History

The author and composer, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received his education at the University of Vermont and at General Theological Seminary in New York City, graduating in 1850. Hopkins then became the first church music instructor at General Theological Seminary and was the founding editor of the *Church Journal* (1853-1868).

Through these positions he became recognized as a leading Episcopal church musician. Following his ordination in 1872, Hopkins served as rector of two parishes: Trinity Church in Plattsburg, New York (1872-1876) and Christ Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania (1876-1887).

Hopkins wrote the carol around 1857, based on the narrative of the journey of the magi in Matthew 2:1-12. It was first published in the author's *Carols, Hymns, and Songs* (1863). *United Methodist Hymnal* editor Carlton R. Young makes an interesting observation: “Because the wealth of USA Appalachian and other folk carols was yet to be discovered, this carol for almost a century was regarded by hymnal editors as the sole USA contribution to the repertory of English language carols.”

Indeed, “We three kings” has many features associated with Christmas carols including a refrain, a narrative-ballad style, and a lilting tune in triple meter. Compared to some of the other classic Epiphany hymns of this era, such as “As with gladness men of old” (c. 1858) by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), and “Brightest and best of the sons of the morning” (1811) by Reginald Heber (1783-1826), few would claim that “We three kings” is better poetry. Yet this carol makes a distinctive contribution.