



HOME BY  
ANOTHER way  
Epiphany



# The Worship of God

Sunday, January 2

*We ask that you please continue to wear a mask at all times while indoors, out of respect for the health and safety of all people joining us for worship.*

*When congregational songs are sung in worship this morning, we invite you to listen prayerfully and participate in other safe ways if you feel so moved - feel free to stand, move, clap, drum on the pew in front of you, etc. Texts are provided for your personal reflection.*

## Prelude

“Fantasy on ‘We Three Kings’”  
Tim Hendrix

arr. O. Griffith

## Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

## † Call to Worship

One: We come to this place—

**All: each of us on our own path.**

One: The path is winding,

**All: and the path is not always clear,**

One: and the path changes,

**All: but we are here.**

One: God is walking us home.

**All: What a gift it is to not walk alone.**

One: Let us worship Holy God.

## Song for Reflection

“Close to Home”  
(video)

Words and Music by  
Christian McIvor ©2021

After all that we’ve been through,  
We’re homesick for the world we knew but wanting more.  
Help us know what’s good and true –  
That in our hearts, O God, it’s you we’re longing for.  
As we seek to build your kin-dom far and near,  
Give us hope that lets us know that you’re still here,  
Close to home, close to home.

(cont’d on next page)

† Please rise in body or spirit

Help us now prepare a place  
In us, O God, for you a space to break right through.  
In our action and our word,  
May your great love be felt and heard and all made new.  
As we lay a strong foundation on your way,  
Give us peace that lets us know you always stay  
Close to home, close to home.

Help us always make the choice  
To cry out loud and be the voice that welcomes all.  
Let us show the whole world how  
To create change, 'cause here and now is where we're called.  
We will work for justice and equality,  
Give us joy that for our neighbors we might be  
Close to home, close to home.

Help us set your Spirit free,  
In your abundance, let us be your open arms;  
Shelter from the endless storm,  
A refuge where all might stay warm and safe from harm.  
Let us be a sanctuary of your grace,  
Give us love that we might always make this place  
Close to home, close to home.

"Welcome home." In our staying ("home"), in our going  
("Home"), in our failing ("home"), in our growing  
("Home"), in our doubting ("home"), in our knowing,  
You are here with us, calling us home,  
Home, home, home, home.

## **Children's Message**

April Alston

## **Offertory Carol 275**

"Sing We Now of Christmas"  
Elizabeth Worley

## **Doxology**

"Christmas Doxology"

OLD HUNDREDTH;  
Words by Roger Lynn,  
Music from the *Genevan Psalter*

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace  
Praise God for gifts of joy and love  
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell  
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gary Hollingsworth

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

Tana Grace Alston

**Sermon**

*"Home By Another Way"*

Anna Beth Cross

**Silent Reflection**

**Musical Reflection**

*"Pastorale on 'Gesù Bambino'"*

Tim Hendrix

Traditional Italian Carol  
by Pietro Yon; arr. J. Rouse

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

**Pastoral Prayer**

April Alston

## Invitation

April Alston

## Gift Exchange

## Hymn of Response

“Home By Another Way”  
Elizabeth Worley

KINGS OF ORIENT;  
Words by Anna Strickland,  
Music by John Henry Hopkins

Magi from a faraway place, radiant starlight setting their pace,  
Fording wadi, risking body seeking the king's birth place.

Refrain:

O, we have traveled night and day meeting God where'er we stay,  
Paths are changing, rearranging as we find another way.

Threatened by the good news they bring, Herod plots to kill the new king,  
Angels warning in the morning: "Avoid Jerusalem." (Refrain)

Plans that change and storms that delay, dreams and hopes left in disarray  
Make us tremble, but remember there is another way. (Refrain)

## Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

## Benediction

As you leave this service, your service begins:  
Comfort the homesick.  
Open your doors to others.  
Seek sanctuary.  
Be brave enough to go home by another way.  
And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.  
In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—  
go in peace.

## Postlude

Reprise “Fantasy on ‘We Three Kings’”  
Tim Hendrix

arr. O. Griffith

**Today is our Epiphany Gift Exchange.** We will exchange *Gifts for the Journey*. As the Wisemen made their return journey **Home By Another Way**, their gifts were being treasured by a young family fleeing persecution and danger. As Joseph, Mary, and Jesus made their way to Egypt, I wonder if the gifts from the Wisemen reminded them that they were not alone, that they had friends praying for them and loving them from afar. Today we will share gifts with one another with this in mind, reminders that none of us are alone in this journey. We are a family, and we are on this journey together.

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## Greystone Prayers and Praises

- Blake Aydlett
- Gwen Baine
- Duane Long
- Cathy Smith
- Chris Allen
- Teresa Vaughn's dad, Bill Carswell
- Cathy Perkinson's father, Jim Walker
- Cathy Perkinson's sister, Sheri
- James Tatum's mother, Faye Tatum
- Carl Dawson's mother, Lorraine Dawson
- Carl Dawson's sister-in-law, Jo Dawson
- Joy Croom Griffin's husband, Ray Griffin
- Sylvia Cash's brother-in-law, Billy Walker
- Sylvia Cash's friend, Peggy Vaughan
- Sylvia Cash's friend, Juanita Luna
- Sandra Hunt's family on the death of her father, Lloyd Parrish, 12/22/21

### Residential Health Care Facilities / Long Term Care

- Springmoor (SHC): Greta McMillan
- Sunrise at North Hills: Martha Castleberry, Sharon Wertz

Minister On-Call Phone: (919) 817-8975

### Connect:

Church Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 PM (M-Th) | Phone: (919) 847-1333 | Email: [office@greystonechurch.org](mailto:office@greystonechurch.org)

Website: [www.greystonechurch.org](http://www.greystonechurch.org) | Facebook: @greystonebaptistchurch | Instagram: @greystonechurch



*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,  
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love  
by word and deed to all people.*

*Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6*