WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Hymn Devotion -January 6

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-2

We three kings of Orient are;   
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,   
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,   
Following yonder star.

*Refrain*

*O star of wonder, star of light,   
Star with royal beauty bright,   
Westward leading, still proceeding,   
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,   
King forever, ceasing never,   
Over us all to reign.

*Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I;   
Incense owns a deity nigh;   
Prayer and praising, voices raising,   
Worshipping God on high.

*Refrain*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*Refrain*

Glorious now behold Him arise;   
King and God and sacrifice;   
Alleluia, Alleluia,   
Sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)

Here we have three wise men - astrologers, watching the night skies seeing a star of interest, they come to worship the infant Jesus. Wise men today still seek Jesus, our King, God and later sacrifice for our sins. May we today be guided through this world of gloom and doom to and by His perfect Light.

1. Where were the three kings from?

2. What did they “bear” on their travels?

3. What did they encounter as they followed “yonder star”?

4. Verse 2: Who is the King born on Bethlehem’s Plain?

5. Gold is a gift for a King - How long is the reign of this newly crowned King?

6. Who will He reign over?

7. Verse 3: Frankincense is a form of incense, a perfume. A way the priests sent an aroma offering to God, praise to God.

What now should “all men be raising”?

8. Verse 4: Myrrh was also a form of incense often used as a burial spice.

What is the “breath” of myrrh to life?

9. What are the descriptions of this gloom?

10. Whose gloom is this describing?

11. Verse 5: When the gloom is past what happens?

12. The three descriptions of the risen Christ are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

13. What resounds through earth and skies?

14. The chorus: What are the descriptions of the star?

15. What does the star still do?

AS WITH GLADNESS, MEN OF OLD

Hymn Devotion -January 7

Scripture – Matthew 2:10-11

As with gladness, men of old  
Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom Heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King!

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

We will have the Lord of all creation to be the Sun that never sets, we will need no star to guide because He will be right there by our side.

1. Who are the “men of old” referred to here?

2. What sent these men of old on their way?

3. They with joy they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its light as it did what?

4. What is the author’s wish for us?

5. Verse 2: How did the men of old approach the manger bed?

6. What did they do when they arrived?

Him who heaven and earth adore - Is that still true of earth?

7. What “kind” of feet are we to have when we seek God?

8. Verse 3: What did the wise men have to offer?

9. What describes the manger?

10. What brings “holy joy”?

12. What would be considered our “costliest treasures”?

13. Verse 4: What is the desire?

14. When the earth passes away we ask that what happens?

To be where what two things will not be? To do what?

15. Verse 5: What is not needed in the heavenly country bright?

16. Who is Thou? What will Thou be? What does not go down?

17. What will we do forever?

LIKE A RIVER GLORIOUS

Hymn Devotion - January 8

Scripture – Isaiah 48:18-19

Like a river glorious, is God’s perfect peace,  
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;  
Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,  
Perfect, yet it groweth, deeper all the way.

*Refrain*

*Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest  
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.*

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,  
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,  
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

*Refrain*

Every joy or trial falleth from above,  
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;  
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.  
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

*Refrain*

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

A river many time starts out small and gets wider and deeper as it flows to its outlet. God’s love starts like that in our hearts and as we rely on Him as He loves and protects us. The trouble in our hearts melts away to perfect peace.

1. Why is a river a good illustration of God’s perfect peace?

2. How does God’s peace make us victorious?

3. List the descriptions of the “perfect” in the bright increase:

4. Verse 2: Thinking of how we are surrounded by the hand of God - How should that make us feel?

5. List the “never” and “nots” of being in the Hollow of His hand:

6. What cannot touch the spirit there?

7. Verse 3: What falleth from above?

8. What does “our dial” mean?

9. What word could be substituted for Sun?

10. We can trust Him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. If we do trust Him - How do we find Him?

12. The chorus: How are we to be upon God?

13. Our hearts are fully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

14. What do we find because of God’s promise?

JESUS, LEAD THOU ON

Hymn Devotion – January 9

Scripture: I Peter 1:3-6

Jesus, lead Thou on

Till our rest is won;

And although the way be cheerless,

We will follow calm and fearless:

Guide us by Thy hand

To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,

If the foe be near,

Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;

Let not faith and hope forsake us;

For Through many a woe

To our home we go.

When we seek relief

From a long-felt grief;

When temptations come alluring,

Make us patient and enduring;

Show us that bright shore

Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on

Till our rest is won.

Heav’nly Leader, still direct us,

Still support, control, protect us,

Till we safely stand

In our fatherland.

Nicolaus von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) Collected and arranged by Christian Gregor

(1723-1801)

Translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897)

Each of our way is different, none without temptation, pain, the need for strength, patience and the need for heavenly guidance. Look to the Lord for that guidance and direction.

1. How long do we want Jesus to lead us?

2. How may the way be?

3. How will we follow?

4. Guide us how and where to?

5. Verse 2: How may the way be?

Who is ever near?

6. List the “Let nots”:

7. What must we go through?

8. Where will we go?

9. Verse 3: From what may we seek relief?

10. What come to allure us?

11. What do we need to be?

12. Where do we want to be shown?

13. What will happen no more?

14.Verse 4: Asking again to be lead until our rest is won - Where is the leader from?

15. What are we “Still” asking Him to do?

16. Until when?

BE STILL, MY SOUL

Hymn Devotion -January 10

Scripture: Psalm 46:8-11

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future, as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

Katharina Amalia von Schlegel (1697-?)

Translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick

(1813-1897)

In this life it is not always easy to have a soul that is still, that is quiet and listening and following God. If we can have a soul that is still and knowing that the Lord is on our side what a wonderful, confident and orderly life we can enjoy. If we don’t have the life we would like to have we need to still our soul and look to the Lord.

1. Why is being still important?

2. When the Lord is on our side, what can be patiently bore?

3. What are we to leave to God?

4. Among other times but during what will He remain?

5. What is the outcome of thorny ways?

6. Verse 2: What does God undertake?

7. What are we not to let be shaken?

8. What does it mean that the mysterious will be “bright” at last?

9. What still knows His voice?

10. Verse 3: How long will we be with the Lord?

11. List what will be gone and forgotten:

12. What will be restored?

13. What will be in the past?

14. What will our status of life be when we meet at last?