

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Epiphany Sunday

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

January 5, 2025

10:30am Worship Service

### THE GATHERING

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Miragliotta-Van Scyoc

#### PRELUDE

*Sim Shalom*

Will Lopes

Anna Pengov, pianist and soloist

See insert for translation.

#### CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

*To God Be the Glory*

UMH 98

#### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

**People: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

**People: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**People: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**People: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day.  
Amen.**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

UMH 220

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2024, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/re-memembering-the-body/second-sunday-after-christmas-day-epiphany-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-after-christmas-day-epiphany-year-c-liturgical-resources>.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**Leader:** Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

**People:** Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF GRACE

**Leader:** God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**People:** God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*The Gift*

M. Wilson/J.F. Knox

CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible 602

Psalms 72

UMH 795

\*Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible 783

God is still speaking. **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God!**

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH, on <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/12/prayer-of-confession-matthew-2-1-18.html>.

**\*GLORIA PATRI** *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 71  
**SERMON** *Seeking, Finding, Following* Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION** *The First Noel* UMH 245

**CALL TO THE OFFERING<sup>3</sup>**

**OFFERTORY** *Welcome to Our World* Chris Rice  
Lisa Miragliotta-Van Scyoc, soloist

**\*DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH INTERCESSIONS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** UMH 895

**PRAYER RESPONSE** *O Lord, Hear Our Prayer* TFWS 2200

**SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP**

**\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** *We Three Kings* UMH 254

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Are Singing For the Lord is Our Light* TFWS 2235

**\*POSTLUDE**

## **BIRTHDAY CLUB CELEBRATION**

The celebration for all **Birthday Club members** (Especially those club members who had birthdays during the fourth quarter of this year) will take place **today**, January 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Gathering Area after worship.

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<sup>3</sup> Offering sequence reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word®* Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.

# CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

*Non-weekly meetings and activities are in **bold print**.*

- SUN (01/05):**    **Communion Sunday**  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Birthday Club Celebration, 11:45am/Gathering Area**  
**De-Hanging of the Greens, 11:45am/Sanctuary**
- TUE (01/07):**    Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- WED (01/08):**    **Babble 'Bout Books Club, 10:30am/Emma Lang Lounge**
- SUN (01/12):**    Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Finance, 11:45am/Emma Lang Lounge**

## *We Are All God's Children*

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

*Bobby Blankenship	Carol	Gail	Lynn Parker
*Monta Demchak	Caroline	Geof Funk	Mary
*Dave Dickman	Chris M.	J & J	Mary Ellen
*Cindy Light	Darlene	Jan	Mary W.H.
*John Motley	Darlene	Jim	Max
*Peter Oesterreich	Daryana	Jim	Michael Murphy
*Janis Pongallo	David R.	John	MJ
*DeeDee Rencehausen	Dennis	Joshua C.	Rosie
*Nadene & Dennis Smith	Diane	Kathy	Roy Buser
*Joan Thorkelson	Dixie	Laurie	Seth Buser
Ukraine, Israel and Gaza	Dotty	Lee	Sheri G.
Al Tobey	Ed Rote	Lily Van Scyoc	Ted Nyland
Carol De Laat	Erik T.	Lindsey Elswick	Tom Szor
Pastor Jason Thompson	Frank	Lindsey Parker	Viola
James Hyde-Stepanski			

### SIM SHALOM (HEBREW PRAYER FOR PEACE)

Grant peace, goodness, blessing,  
Grace, loving kindness and compassion  
To us and ALL your people.  
Bless us, O Father,  
All of us as one,  
With the light of your presence.

# EPIPHANY QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION<sup>4</sup>

In Epiphany when the magi make their great journey to see the Christ Child, we see Jesus drawing all creation to the divine life revealed in him, and we see the realization of God's dream of reconciled creation. In our own way, we are each endowed by the Spirit with unique and precious gifts for sharing God's healing love in a good but often divided world. What spiritual practices do you engage in that allow you to stay peaceful, courteous, and develop a respectful regard for difference? How do you stay present and create openness for finding, revealing, and activating God's reconciling love in the world?

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Glorious God,  
each day provides opportunity  
to awaken to the radiance of your presence,  
and to welcome your blessing into my life.  
How often I forget that I am your home!  
Help me to draw more closely to you,  
that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world.  
May every bright place and darkened corner  
grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Holy Jesus,  
I thank you for sharing your life with me today.  
As darkness comes and blankets the earth,  
be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter.  
Kindle in them the warmth of your presence,  
and surround them with your steadfast care.  
I am grateful for the blessings of this day.  
And in the light of your love I rest this night. Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> These questions for reflection and prayers are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.

## **SERMON NOTES**

### **DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS**

After worship today we will join with our sister church, Ka'ren Baptist, to take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary as we welcome the new year. Join with us! A light lunch will be provided.

### **STAR WORDS**

Today in worship we handed out "Star Words". I invite you to take the word you chose and use it throughout the year as a way to center your prayer time and to be aware of God's presence throughout the day. If you were not able to be in the sanctuary today but would like a word, please contact the office or Pastor Dianne. Each week in the bulletin there will be a journal prompt or reflection question that encourages you in your use of the word.

For this week: What is your current understanding of the meaning of this word? Does it carry multiple meanings?

## **MUSICAL THANKS**

Anna Pengov is a NEW Baldwin Wallace graduate with her Bachelor's of Music Education degree. She is the director for the two youngest youth choirs at Cleveland Institute of Music's Academy. She interned for 4 years with the BW Community Arts School's Women's Chorus, where she arranged and conducted original arrangements.

We thank Anna Pengov, Lisa Miragliotta and Ruth Ann Cunningham for being the backbone for our congregational singing from the piano, accompanying our choir and soloists and providing additional music to enhance our worship for the past few weeks. These services wouldn't be nearly as rich without your help and participation! Your music ministry has been a delight for our ears and hearts!

## **BABBLE 'BOUT BOOKS CLUB**

Happy New Year! Have you set a resolution to READ MORE in 2025?! If so, consider joining our book club! Unlike a traditional book club, that typically reads one book, we get together and share about what we've all been reading! Perhaps it'll give you inspiration on books, authors or subject matter that you, too, may be interested in! MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the following dates at 10:30 AM - 1/8, 3/5 & 5/7!

## **TAKE WHAT YOU NEED PANTRY BOX**

The pantry box has become one of our most used outreach ministries! But keeping it full is a challenge. Please feel free to fill the box if you see it is empty, either from the supplies in the entryway or from your own cupboard! If you would rather, we could shop for you, just note that your monetary donation is for the pantry. Below are listed a few ideas of things you can donate. Thank you!

Canned soup  
Canned fruit  
Canned vegetables  
Cereal

Canned stew  
Canned fish  
Canned beans  
Baby Food

Peanut butter  
Pasta (most prefer whole grain)  
Rice (most prefer brown rice)  
Toiletries



# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: *The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL*

Cell: 216.509.4229

Email: [pastordiannetc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiannetc@gmail.com)

Office Hours this week: Monday and Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Lisa Miragliotta-Van Scyoc*

USHERS: *Carol Thomas, Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*

GREETERS: *Nancy Horton*

ACOLYTE: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton*

AUDIO and VIDEO TECHNICIANS: *John Motley, Rob Pongallo*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: *Susan Balesky*

ORGANIST/PIANIST: *Anna Pengov*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: *Desiree Tarpeo*

Email: [office@christumc.com](mailto:office@christumc.com)

Office Hours: *Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm*

## GOAL - FOCUS - STRATEGIES

**GOAL:** Grow in relationship with Jesus Christ in order to change the world around us, starting with our own community.

**FOCUS:** To achieve this goal, we will prioritize reaching out to our community as essential to our personal and congregational growth as Christians.

### STRATEGIES:

1. We will build meaningful relationships with the people in our community.
2. We will strive to listen and understand the needs of our community.
3. We will use our building and resources to meet those needs in a tangible way.



QR CODE



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## *Christ UMC Welcomes All*

*We welcome all persons to our church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize or discriminate against others. For our full statement, go to our website.*

***Ask an usher if you would like a LARGE PRINT HYMNAL,  
Braille hymnal or hearing device.***