

Sunday, January 4, 2026 – 9:30 am
BLESSED EPIPHANY!

TODAY'S FOCUS: SEEKING. The Magi, as prophesied, diligently search for the Christ child. Do wise people still seek him?

PRELUDE — Brendan Krueger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin

OPENING HYMN UMH #237 “We Three Kings”

1. 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.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. REFRAIN

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. REFRAIN

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. REFRAIN

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. REFRAIN

CALL TO WORSHIP — Shelly

One: We meet to worship God and to remember, tell, and show God's love.

Many: Like a bright star in the night sky, the life of Christ lights up the whole world.

One: The star of hope shines on, and no darkness will overcome it.

Many: The light of Christ shows us who we are and what we can be, where we have been and where we should go.

All: In this New Year, let us continue to walk in the light and give thanks to God.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Lin

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6 — Shelly

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

MESSAGE

“Nations and Kings”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #245 “The First Noel” (vs 1, 3, 4, 5)

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek 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**

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Scott, Shelly, Janice & Betsy

“Star of Bethlehem”

DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Shelly

HYMN OF PREPARATION (sung to the tune of “What Child Is This”)

What bread is this, we break today,
The bread that on the altar lay,
The bread we pass, the bread we share
As we gather this Sabbath morning?

This, this is the bread of life,
That speaks of Christ and his sacrifice.
This, this is the bread of love,
The love that was born of Mary.

What cup is this, we share today,
The covenant cup, on the altar laid,
The cup poured out for a world in need,
As we gather this Sabbath morning?

This, this is the cup of joy,
That came to us as a baby boy.
This, this is the cup of love,
The love that was born of Mary.

THE BLESSING OF HOLY COMMUNION — Lin and Shelly

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. It is a marvelous thing ... the one who taught us to pray saying:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION — Lin

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to share in Communion, and all means all.

Please come forward when invited by the usher and eat the bread, then drink the cup. For the convenience of all, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and also provide gluten free wafers. When you return to your seat, please take time to pray for those on the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would prefer to receive communion in the pew, please let the usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Shelly Anderson

All: **Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. As we begin this new year, grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

UMH #251 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. **REFRAIN**

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. **REFRAIN**

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **REFRAIN**

BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Brendan Krueger
Offertory— Brendan Krueger
Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist —Shelly Anderson
Special Music: N/A (communion Sunday)

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger
Song Leader — Shelly Anderson
Violin — Rae Ann Norell
Children’s Message— Lin Cheek