



Epiphany

First United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation

January 2, 2022

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude *Two Christmas Carols:* Egil Hovland (1924-2013)
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming and *Christ was Born on Christmas Day*

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Music *Nothing Can Trouble* #772

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

Call to Worship *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Opening Hymn *O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright* #158 (Wie schön leuchtet)

v1 O Morning Star, how clear and bright,
your beam shines forth in truth and light!
My Sovereign meek and lowly!
O Root of Jesse, Promised One,
my God and Ruler, you have won
My heart to serve you solely.
You are holy,
Great and glorious, all victorious
Rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.

v2 Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine,
and deep within my heart now shine,
there make yourself an altar!
Fill me with joy and strength to be
your member, joined eternally
in love that cannot falter;
Longing for you
Does possess me;
turn and bless me;
Here in sadness
eye and heart long for your gladness.

Time With Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	Rich Graves
Sermon		Rev. Cindy Maddox
Prayer Hymn	<i>We Three Kings</i>	Kings of Orient

v1 We three kings of Orient are;
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 Following yonder star. *Refrain.*

v3 Frankincense to offer have I;
 Incense owns a deity night;
 Prayer and praising, all men raising,
 Worship him, God on high. *Refrain.*

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

v2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain
 Gold I bring to crown him again,
 King forever, ceasing never
 Over us all to reign. *Refrain.*

v4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom:
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain.*

v5 Glorious now behold him arise,
 King and God and Sacrifice;
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Earth to the heav'n replies. *Refrain.*

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,
 Many: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Three Great Kings

Russell Schulz-Widmar (2013)

Three great kings in elegant array
Come marching through the midnight stillness.
Crowned in bold, they make a fine display;
A star they follow into Bethlehem.

All the town is lighted by a star;
The stable glows as bright as noonday.
Angel choirs are coming from afar
To praise the holy child of Bethlehem.

A gift each brings for the King of kings;
Pure gold and myrrh and finest incense.
A gift each brings for the King of kings,
The Savior born in Bethlehem.

They seek the child and the mother mild;
Their Savior poor lies in a manger.
They seek the child and the mother mild,
The Savior born in Bethlehem.

Prayer of Thanks

Loving and receptive God, who acted in the Bethlehem birth and who sustains the whole human family, we come to you seeking to be wise people. May our gifts be a sign, as were the gifts of those travelers of old, that wisdom is marked by an offering of self and substance to the Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Come, My Way

NCH #331 (The Call)

v1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

v2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

v3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.

Invitation & Telling the Story

Blessing the Meal

Sharing the Bread & Cup

(Please ready your bread and cup for partaking)

Music During Communion

Now the Joyful Bells A-Ringing

Traditional Welsh Tune

Now the joyful bells a-ringing
Lift our hearts, like birds a-winging.

Now our festal season, bringing
Kith and kin to bide and board,

Sets our cheery voices singing:
All ye mountains, praise the Lord!
Cold the year, new whiteness wearing,
Peace, goodwill to us a-bearing,

Now we all God's goodness sharing
Break the bread and sheathe the sword:
Bright our hearths the signal flaring,
All ye mountains, praise the Lord!

Prayer After Communion

Hymn of Sending

Many Are the Lightbeams

#163 (Lightbeams)

v1 Many are the lightbeams
from the one of light.
Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams
from the one of light;
we are one in Christ.

v3 Many are the gifts given,
love is all one.
Loves' the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given,
love is all one;
we are one in Christ.

v2 Many are the branches
of the one tree
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches
of the one tree;
we are one in Christ.

v4 Many ways to serve God,
the Spirit is one;
servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God,
the Spirit is one;
we are one in Christ.

v5 Many are the members,
the body is one;
members all of Jesus.
Many are the members,
the body is one;
we are one in Christ.

Benediction

Postlude

French Suite in E Flat Major: Gigue

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

We are so glad you worshiped here today!

Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service. We hope you will stay!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. [Give online now](#), or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up-to-date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](#).

This Week at First UCC

Monday, January 3

6:30 p.m. Braiding Sweetgrass Book Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 4

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 5

3:45 p.m. CONNECT Group (Library)

6 p.m. Facilities Committee (Assembly Room)

6:30 p.m. The Great Escape (Big Room)

7-8:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 6

9:30 a.m. Braiding Sweetgrass Book Group (Sanctuary)

10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters (Assembly Room)

Sunday, January 9

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

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First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Sam Steinberg

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Director of Communications & Operations: Green Bouzard
Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund
Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders



Ushers: Pat Richardson, Phil Parsons, Nalani McCutcheon, Kathy Sandberg

Reader: Rich Graves

Digital Zoom Host: Carl Henry

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon