

**January 1, 2023 Epiphany of the Lord Sunday**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RIVERSIDE**

<https://firstchurchriverside.org>

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (Livestream): 10:00 AM

<https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/live>

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**PRELUDE:** "The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, Organist

**\*TRINITY BELLS**

**\*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP /** Led by Sophie Weiss, Liturgist / All

God of all time,

we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence.

A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem —

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

A light which guided those gift-bearing travelers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child.

A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ.

We pray that you will accept our worship

for it arises from hearts and minds

in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love. Amen!

WELCOME Rev. Bev Devine

## PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING HYMN: #245 "The First Noel" -- traditional English carol / Led by Yvonne Flagg

### Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds 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.

### Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
(Refrain)

### Verse 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)

### Verse 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)

### Verse 5

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full rev'rently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
(Refrain)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Sharing of Joys - Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sharing of Concerns

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) / Liturgist / All**

God of glorious surprises: Like the wise men sent by Herod, we, too, come as searchers for a glimpse of your presence. As were the people in those days, we are surprised that we find you not in a palace but in a stable, surrounded by a family of poor refugees and worshiped by the lowly shepherds. Like them, our gifts from our wealth seem simultaneously too material and woefully shabby and outshined by what you have given us. Just the same, use our gifts for the work of justice, mercy, and compassion – as would befit the Savior who sleeps in a manger. It's in is holy name we pray. Amen.

**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12 (The Message) / Liturgist**

**1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory – this was during Herod's kingship – a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."**

**3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified – and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"**

**5-6 They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:**

**It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,  
no longer bringing up the rear.**

**From you will come the leader**

**who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."**

**7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East.**

**Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."**

**9-10 Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!**

**11 They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.<sup>12</sup> In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.**

## Who Is He in Yonder Stall 190

1. Who is he in yon-der stall at whose feet the shep-herds fall?  
2. Lo, at mid-night who is he prays in dark Geth-sem-a - ne?  
3. Who is he in Cal-vary's throes asks for bless - ings on his foes?  
4. Who is he that from the grave comes to heal and help and save?  
5. Who is he that from yon throne rules the world of light a - lone?

*Refrain*

'Tis the Lord, O won-drous sto - ry! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glo - ry;

at his feet we hum-bly fall, crown him, crown him Lord of all!

WORDS: Benjamin R. Hanby, 1866  
MUSIC: Benjamin R. Hanby, 1866

WHO IS HE  
77 with Refrain

### INVITATION TO OFFERING / Liturgist

As one year ends and another begins, it is a time for setting goals and plans; it is a time of hope for what could be. The offerings that you are about to make are more than just money to pay bills. This is an offering of hope, an offering of new beginnings. Please be generous.

### OFFERTORY: "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" by Johann Sebastian Bach

#### \*DOXOLOGY: #2015 "Bless His Holy Name" TFWS

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
He has done great things, he has done great things,  
he has done great things, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / Liturgist**

**O God, we pray that the ministries and programs that this offering makes possible will give hope to many, including us. In this spirit, we dedicate our tithes and offerings to you - given for the ministry and mission of this congregation throughout the New Year. Amen.**

**SERMON: "Gifts?"/ Rev. Bev Devine**

**INTERLUDE: "Christmas Joy" by Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach, arr. by Lloyd Pfautsch / Yvonne Flagg, Soloist**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY COMMUNION**

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

**(Congregation) And also with you.**

(P) Lift up your hearts.

**(C) We lift them up to the Lord.**

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**(C) It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(P) It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or you had formed the earth,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.  
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

**(C) You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.**

(P) And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sing:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

(P) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light, and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

**(C) By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

(P) On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

#### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

(P) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**(C) By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

(P) Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Sing: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Holy Communion is the Lord's Supper, not ours. United Methodists practice an "open table," which means that "Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. All who desire to receive are welcome.

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Two Lullaby Carols" by Hermann Schroeder**

## **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**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**

**LAITY BLESSINGS:** Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

**SENDING HYMN: #87 "What Gift Can We Bring" by Jane Marshall**

### Verse 1

**What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer in honor and praise?**

### Verse 2

**Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.  
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.**

### Verse 3

**Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,  
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,  
the Word is our promise always, forever;  
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.**

### Verse 4

**This gift we now bring, this present, this token,  
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

## **BENEDICTION:**

Let us lift up the name of Jesus today; let us make our pledge and follow his star.  
Let us be about the one who guides us, who finds us even when we are lost and  
gives us direction and hope. Let our lives be full of praise of the name of Jesus, and  
let our prayers be prayers of commitment to follow. Alleluia! Amen!

**POSTLUDE: "In Thee Is Gladness" by Johann Sebastian Bach**

**WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD**



*We are grateful for the Worship/Media Team members who have faithfully served today:*

*Organist: Robert Phillips*

*Liturgist: Sophie Weiss*

*Hymn Leader/Soloist: Yvonne Flagg*

*Children's Moment: Lucinda Edmunds*

*Laity Blessings: Kris Lovekin*

*Media/Livestream Team: Don Knowles, Dan, Carmen, and Gayla Lonsbery*

*Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann*

*Advent Décor: the Décor Team*



*Jim and Genette Sizer, Myra Williams family,  
Linda Rydzik, Jonathon Williams family, Mack and Elizabeth Davis,  
Peggy Stepe, David and Loretta Cudney,  
Family of William "Bill" Wolter, Brad Austin, Isaac Ruiz,  
Thurmond, Nicolas Mateo family, Pastor J.T. Kim, and family,  
Robert Zeeb, Ryan Kinnear, Robert Martinez*

*(Please update our prayer list by contacting our church office. Thank you!)*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Sunday, January 1

- Sunday Worship - Epiphany/Communion /Rev. Bev Devine preaching (Sanctuary) – 10 a.m.
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Pastor Kim on Vacation (He returns to the office on January 4)

### Monday, January 2

- Pastor Kim on Vacation (He returns to the office on January 4)
- Preschool Closed

### Tuesday, January 3

- Pastor Kim on Vacation (He returns to the office on January 4)
- Bell Rehearsal (MPR) – 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 4

- Parent's Morning Out (Nursery) - 9 a.m.
- UMW/UWif Executive Meeting (Zoom) 1 p.m.
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Group (Youth Room) – 5:30 p.m.
- The Response Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, January 5

- UMW/UWif Study, "Bad Girls of the Bible" (Zoom) – 6:45 p.m.
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) – 7 p.m.

### Sunday, January 8

- Children's Chime Choir (Fellowship Hall) – 9:30 a.m.
- Worship - Baptism of the Lord Sunday and Pastor Kim will begin "The Ten Commandments" sermon series (Sanctuary) – 10 a.m.
- Church School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 a.m.
- UMM Meeting with featured speakers, Gary and Paulette Bruggeman. (Zoom)

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