

FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Epiphany Sunday  
The Sacrament of Communion**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Jesus Shall Reign”** V330

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The magi came from distant places, following a star.

**PEOPLE: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.**

Leader: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**PEOPLE: We, too, bring gifts: ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.**

Leader: Shepherds and magi – the poor and the powerful – all were welcome in Bethlehem

**ALL: We too have come to Bethlehem and now return to our homes rejoicing.\*\***

**\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

Radiant God, light for all people and all places, V86  
by the guidance of a star you led the Magi to worship the Christ Child.  
By the light of faith, lead us to worship you in peace and love,  
and guide us in your way.

We pray in the name of Christ, light of the world.## Amen.

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI** P513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison**

God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed through life. Forgive us when, like Herod, we allow selfish ambition to make us willing to harm others. Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of your Christ, in whose name we pray.\*\* Amen.

*~ silence ~*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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. 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. 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.

**HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

\* **HYMN:** "When a Star Is Shining"

V97

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12 Page 1147

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they

offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** We Three Kings

Words & Music by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.(1820-1891)

**Bold print = Sung by all**

**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.**

*Sung by choir*

*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)**

*Sung by choir*

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

**(Refrain)**

*Sung by choir*

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

**(Refrain)**

**Sung by all**

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

**(Refrain)**

**MEDITATION:** "Who is Jesus?"

Scott Morrow

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Organ Response

**THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: “Now to Your Table Spread”

V456

Invitation and Consecration

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

*May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!*

\***CLOSING HYMN:** “There’s a Star in the East”

V70

## \*THE BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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Special thanks to **Grant Underwood**, our substitute organist this morning.

**Fellowship Hour** will be in Carroll Hall after service.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, David Gould, and Sarah.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Karlee Etter 01/05, Bradley Schweickert 01/07, Joyce Bellonio 01/12, Neil Reardon 01/13.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **OASIS:**

Today: Sunday Jan 7 – **Cancelled** ~~Virtual Reality at Xperiment 4-6pm~~

Wednesday Jan 10 – Worship Wednesday ZOOM;

Theme: Inclusion; 7-7:30pm

Sunday Jan 14 – MLK Celebration – Time 4:00pm

Bible Gospel Church, 142 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden

### **Interfaith Service Commemorating**

#### **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on Fri. Jan. 12**

Congregation Mishkan Israel will hold its annual interfaith service to remember and celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his legacy. The service will be in-person and online. The keynote speaker will be Reginald Dwayne Betts. The CEO of Freedom Reads, Betts founded Freedom Reads to provide libraries to prisons and has opened 170 such libraries in 31 prisons and juvenile detention facilities across 10 states. As Betts often declares, “Freedom begins with a book.”

The service is scheduled for **7-8:30pm Friday, January 12**. All are welcome, either in-person or online. For more information and the link to the livestream, go to [cmihamden.org/calendar](http://cmihamden.org/calendar).

#### **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast on Jan.15**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, sponsored by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation of Branford, will be held on Monday, January 15, at 8:30am at the First Congregational Church of Branford. This will be an in-person event. The keynote speaker will be Yvonne Renee Davis, addressing “The Impact of Silence.”

Tickets to the event are \$20 or \$5 for students. **Tickets are limited.**

For tickets and information go

to: [Facebook.com/MLKBreakfastCommittee](https://www.facebook.com/MLKBreakfastCommittee), or

email [MLKHeritageFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:MLKHeritageFoundation@gmail.com).

### **Church Staff:** All the Members, Ministers to the World

The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music

Heather Meachen, Organist

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Dave Nelson, Interim Sexton

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/7</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1/8</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1/9</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 6:00 7:30	<b>Al-Anon (K)</b> Music Together (DBL) PLP (L) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct.) Bible Study (Zoom) Nutmeg Treasure Hunters (CH)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1/10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 10:30 6:00 p.m. 7:00 7:00 7:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (K) AL-ANON Dist. Family (CH) MLB (L) OASIS: Worship Wednesday (Zoom)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1/11</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> 7:00	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b> Garden Club (CH)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 10:30 7:00 p.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Danish Brotherhood (K)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1/13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:30	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Music Together (DBL)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b> OASIS: MLK Celebration. Bible Gospel Church

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

## **MISSION**

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

## **VISION**

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

## **VALUES**

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.



\*OPENING HYMN: "Jesus Shall Reign"

V330

Descant

4 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 3 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; and pris - oners  
 4 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

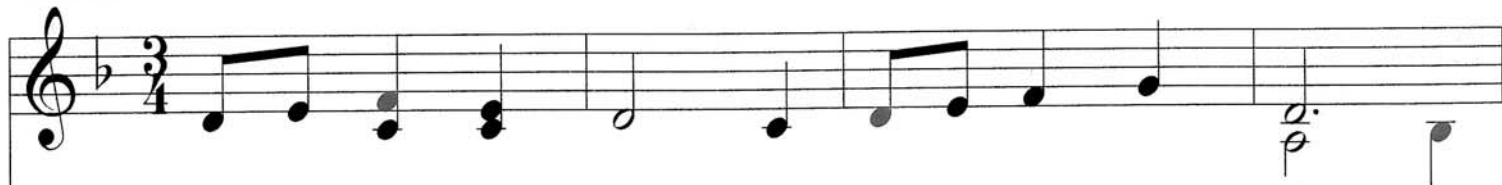
hon - ours to our King, an - gels de - scend with

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ours to our King, an - gels de - scend with

songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

Unison



1 When a Star is shin - ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
 2 Where the world is wait - ing for an un - known day,  
 3 Lead us on, O Day - star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - our stills,  
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
 guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait - ing, and the old hopes rise,  
 where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
 show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
 there the gifts are of - fered: in - cense, myrrh and gold.  
 bring us to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.



\*CLOSING HYMN: "There's a Star in the East"

Unison

1 There's a star in the East on Christ - mas morn,  
 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words,

Harmony

Unison

rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low; it will lead to the place where the  
 rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low, you'll for - get your flocks, you'll for -

Harmony

Christ was born; rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.  
 get your herds; rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.

Refrain

Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low,

fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem, rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.



