

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Epiphany Sunday

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany Sunday
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Lullaby* Solveig Paulson Russell and Keith Rowley

CHORAL INTROIT: *Carol of the Drum* (The Little Drummer Boy)
Katherine Kennicott Davis

Sung by the Chancel Choir
Thomas Jennings, percussion

***OPENING HYMN:** “What Child Is This” V74

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A star shining brightly in the East,

**PEOPLE: discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual
and the challenging.**

Leader: A journey into unknown territory,

PEOPLE: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

Leader: An encounter with an evil presence,

PEOPLE: evil faced, yet resisted with care.

Leader: The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,

PEOPLE: the glory and the gifts given, to God’s Chosen Child.

ALL: Let us worship God!**

***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*

Light has come into the world, but we love the night.

Love has come into the world, but we continue to hate.

Grace has come into the world, but we cannot forgive.

Hope has come into the world, but we are surrounded by despair.

New life has come into the world, but we are tired.

Peace has come into the world, but conflict continues.

Joy has come into the world, but we are sad.

~ *silence* ~

Judge us, O God, by your gracious love. Forgive us, O God, and set us free.** Amen.

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6 Page 679

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:** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

P143

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: *When Heaven's Bright With Mystery*

Text: Rob Johns (1985)

Music: The Sussex Carol

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sung by the Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: “Adoration of the Magi”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral 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: *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* V470

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: "Jesus Shall Reign"

V330

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Eugenie Rocherolle

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. **Communion Servers** are Kathy Harple & Dot Pierce. **Scripture Reader** is Suzanne Cifelli. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson.

Today's flowers are given by Kathy Harple, In memory of my dad on his birthday. He was a wonderful father who is dearly missed.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Sarah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Kimberly Noel 01/05, Karlee Etter 01/05, Carl Flodquist 01/06, Bradley Schweickert 01/07, Joyce Bellonio 01/12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting and Annual Reports – The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 26. Annual Reports from Mission Teams and staff are due in the church office on Thursday, January 2.

40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast on Jan.15

The Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation of Branford, will be held on Monday, January 20, at 8:30am at Branford High School. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey C. Stewart, a professor of Black Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara and Pulitzer Prize winning author. Dr. Stewart will speak on “Nonviolence Now More Than Ever”, centering on Dr. King’s commitment to peaceful protest. The event is moderated by Keith Kountz of Channel 8, catered by the BHS Culinary Arts Program, with music by the BHS Music Makers. Proceeds of the event provide scholarships for BHS students who embody the spirit of Dr. King. Tickets to the event are \$20 or \$5 for students.

Tickets are limited. For tickets go to:

<https://events.eventgroove.com/event/2025-Mlk-Breakfast-Jeffrey-C-Stewart-103201>. For more information go to [Facebook.com/MLKHeritageFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/MLKHeritageFoundation) or email MLKHeritageFoundation@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	1/5	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP: Epiphany Sunday
Monday	1/6	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m.	MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	1/7	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) PLP (CH) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	1/8	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 6:00 p.m. 7:00 7:00 7:00	MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) Leos Club (CH) Al-Anon District Family (K) Lions Club (CH) MLB (L)
Thursday	1/9	7:00 p.m. 7:00	Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	1/10	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 7:00	MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) Danish Brotherhood (K)
Saturday	1/11	9:30 a.m. 10:30 3:00 p.m.	MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL) Tibetan American (K, CR)
Sunday	1/12	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	WORSHIP: The Baptism of Christ MUSIC TOGETHER (DBL)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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, Sexton

*OPENING HYMN: "What Child Is This"

Em D G D

1 What child is this, who laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come,

Em Am B Em D G

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for
 one and all, to own him. The King of Kings sal -

D Em Am B Em

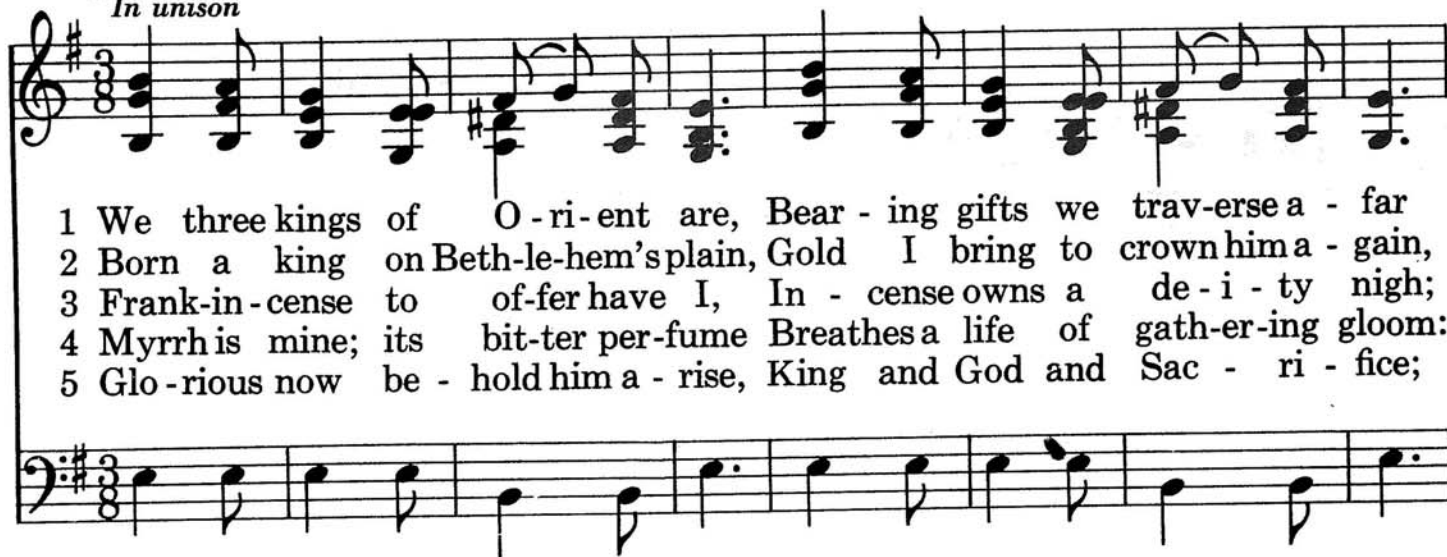
an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain Bm G D Em Am B

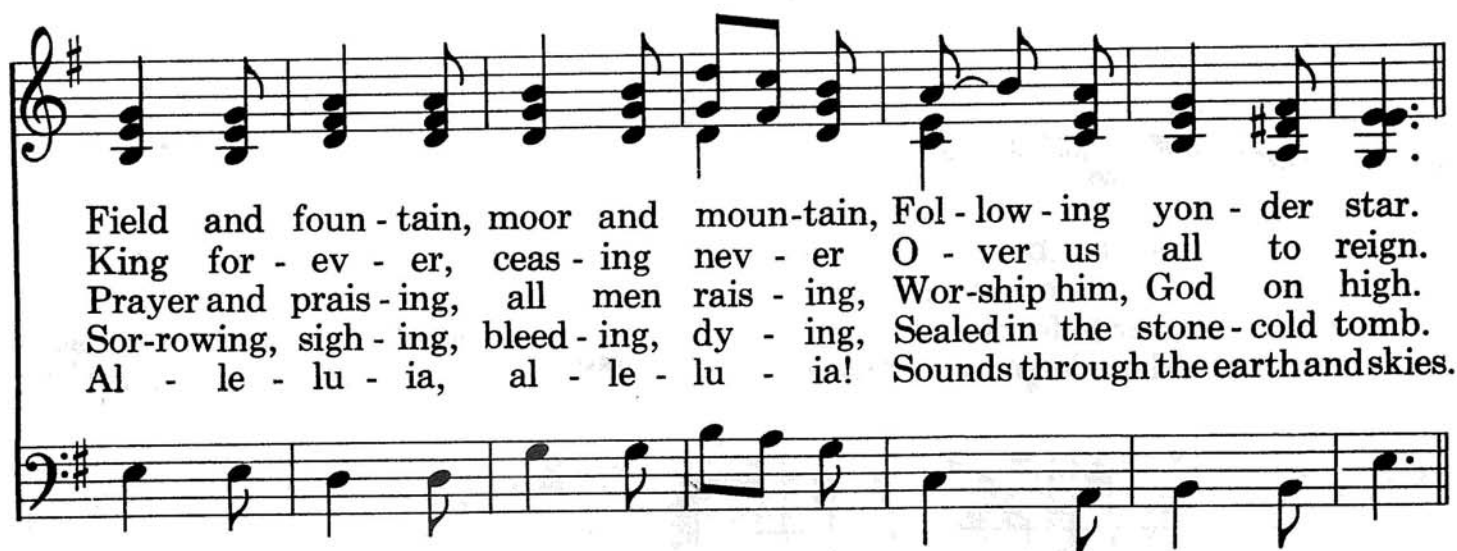
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D Em Am B Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!

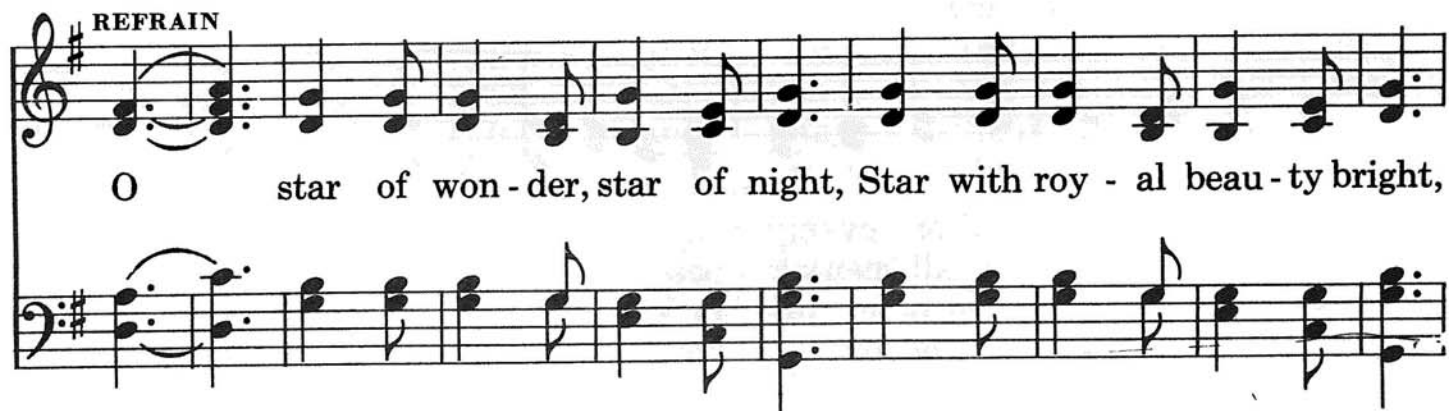
In unison


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

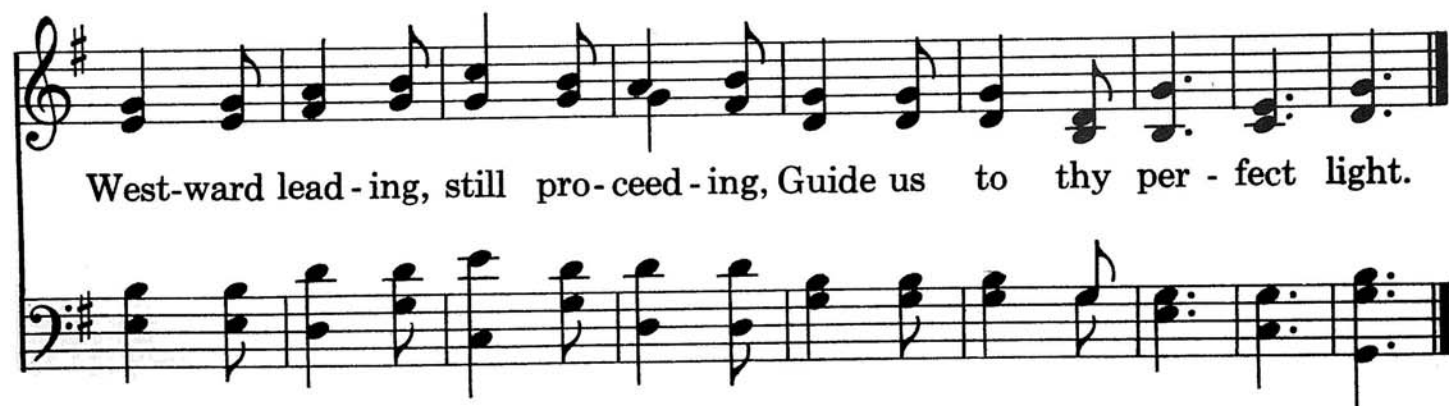


Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on high.
 Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Hymn of Preparation: *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* V470

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, with some melodic movement in the bass line. The lyrics are arranged in two verses, with the second verse starting on a new line of music.

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your

wine which you have - poured, for the words which you have
gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.

*CLOSING 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!

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.

