

*Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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January 7, 2024

10:45 AM

Epiphany Sunday

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you and all present to sign the pew pads located at the end of each pew. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary or at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the sanctuary. Please note, all doors to the building will be open until 11:00 AM. After that time, please use the handicap door in the narthex.

*We welcome infants and children and all their giggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play, and you can still participate in the worship experience. Nursery care (infant through 2nd grade) is also provided, should you desire it. ***Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF KRISTEN ADAMS

PRELUDE

"Three Kings March"

Music by Michael R. Barker
Three Festive Pieces for Christmastide
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***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

L: The magi came from far away places, following a star.

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

L: The magi brought gifts to offer the Christ Child.

P: We too bring gifts—ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

L: Shepherds and magi—the meek and the mighty—all were welcome.

P: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

L: This year, let us continue to follow the light that leads us.

P: The Star of Hope. The Star of Peace. The Star of Joy. The Star of Love. The Light of the World.

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we ever more your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: God of starlight, shine your love into the shadowy places of our lives. Preoccupied with ourselves, we forget the needs of others; we participate in systems that oppress; we accept violence as a way of life; we fail to respond to the cry of others. May your insight fall upon us like freshly fallen snow. May your love wash away our indifference and water the tender shoots of our care and compassion. Nourished in the sunlight of your love, may we grow into people who live in righteousness and who work for justice for all your people. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

NCH #154,vs.3

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

***THE LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND PRAYER FOR PEACE
*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The Christ in me greets the Christ in you.

P: The Christ in me, greets in the Christ in you also.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

One: God is still speaking!

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

HYMN

"Many Are the Lightbeams"

NCH #163, 1-3

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Geneva, Switzerland. Music Copyright ©1974 Olle Wide strand.

**Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one Light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light; We are one in Christ.**

**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**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the Gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given, love is all one; we are one in Christ.**

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING CONSISTORY MEMBERS & INSTALLATION
OF INCOMING CONSISTORY MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES**

Outgoing Consistory Member: Bill Rinker

New Incoming Consistory Member: Teresa Tibbits

Renewing Consistory Members: Karen Adams, Stacey Kimble, Sara Dickey

Incoming Trustees: Bill Adams, Jay Brown, Chanda Thompson

HYMN

"Many Are the Lightbeams"

NCH #163, 4-5

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**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.**

**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.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins/sin against)

All: Our Father, (Creator, Mother, Friend), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Arise, Your Light Has Come"

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TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP & GENEROSITY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"What Star Is This?"

Music by Lynn Trapp
What Star Is This?
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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

NCH #165, vs. 3

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**ALL SING: Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*(*Jesus, the Light of the World*) NCH #160

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Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.
We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew
drops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful, all you saints arise, Jesus, the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world.
We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew
drops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ the everlasting Word, Jesus is the light of the world.
We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew
drops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail the Bearer of God’s peace! Jesus, the light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.
We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dew
drops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Music by Victor Klauss
The Organist’s Companion Vol. 12, No. 1
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References

¹ The call to worship is an adaptation of several liturgies. One written by Maren Tirabassi and another by Glen Rainsley that were published on page 37 of *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth Duck. The other liturgy was written by Rev. Nathan Decker and found at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/epiphany-call-to-worship> and accessed on January 3, 2023.

¹ The Prayer of Confession was written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on the website, *Ministry Matters* at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3475/worship-elements-epiphany-sunday-option-1> and accessed on January 3, 2023.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Danielle Neff, Pastor
Caleb Murray, Director of Faith Formation & Programming
Carol Ann Day, Organist
Gillian Austin, Director of Music
John Mentzer, Custodian
Kim Lark, Secretary

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Media Team: Karen Adams, Hal Bitner, Mark Hollen,
Nick Mowen, Andrew Mowen, Joe Thompson

Usher Team: Molly Adams*, Ben Adams, Charlie Clark,
Bill and Sharon Rinker

Children's Sermon: Karen Adams .

Lay Reader: Alan Neff

Acolyte: Ray Schlotterbeck

OUR MISSION

Because of our love of God, who first loved us, we empower disciples to let their lights shine through love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation.

OUR VISION

As Jesus modeled first for us, we are working to create a just world where all are welcomed, all are loved, and all are included.

OUR PURPOSE

Celebrating the Christ in all of us by joyfully serving our community.

