

Worship on the Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

Prelude "He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From distant lands and faraway shores, God calls us to worship.

Along straight paths and byways, God guides our journey.

Like a loving parent, God joyfully welcomes us home.

With gladness, let us worship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

God of the nations, we have seen your glory rising in splendor like the star of Bethlehem. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night and signals the dawn of your righteousness and peace. May the brightness of Christ illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk in your light. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in the splendor of your eternal light, one God forever. Amen.

Hymn 245 "The First Nowell"

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, your light shines throughout the earth, scattering the darkness. You make yourself known to all people and gather multitudes to the brightness of your dawning. We confess that sometimes we guard your blessing as if it were ours alone. Forgive us. By your Spirit, expand our hearts and help us to draw the circle of welcome wider until our whole community of faith radiates your love and grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Sermon "Flight into Egypt" Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Offertory

Hymn 238 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you have blessed us indeed. Let our life as a church community become like a watered garden. May all who enter our midst flourish with new life. Help us to be generous as we share from your bounty in our mission . Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues.) ... Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name: **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.**

(Prayer continues.) ... Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

(Prayer continues.) ... **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Hymn 254 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 5 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
All are welcome to join us onsite or via live stream on our website.

Wednesday, Jan. 8 **Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Join our hybrid study of *Season's Greetings*, chapters 9 through 11.

Thursday, January 9 **Tots Time** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Parents and toddlers are welcome to enjoy play time and conversation in this casual gathering with tea and cookies.

Sunday, January 12 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
All are welcome to join us onsite or via live stream on our website.

Save the date! Sunday, January 19, 11:00 a.m. – noon
Seed Workshop led by Master Gardener Diana Fiske
Register by emailing Diana at trughouse@comcast.net.
Please save and bring plastic gallon milk or water jugs.

Union Chapel (United Church of Christ)

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Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

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Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist