

*Please stand in body and/or spirit

A Service of Word and Table

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Words to ponder: “What gift shall we bring to treasure honor King Jesus, who honors us with the gifts of love and grace?”

Welcome, Acknowledgment of first-time visitors and Announcements

Introit Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Leader: Bring your gifts and bring your love to honor the King of love.

People: Bring your worship and bring your praise to pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.

*Opening Hymn "We Three Kings" #254

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise, grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives. As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship, fill our hearts with Christmas joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Anthem “The First Noel” arr. Wagner Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Arise, Go and Search” Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory “Birthday of a King” - Neidlinger Bob Hale

*Doxology #95

*Communion Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together" #618

Invitation

All who are curious, arise, go, and search for the One who saves us! You are welcome to come to this table full of questions and wonder. 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. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Silent prayer of confession

Words of Assurance

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. **God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

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See Insert

*Closing Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

See Insert

***Benediction**

Beloved, go from this place carrying the blessing of the Light who has come among so that the love of the Christ child may shine within you, casting rays of good news wherever you go. Amen.

***Response** "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/11812/january-5-2025-epiphany-of-the-lord/>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/re-membering-the-body/second-sunday-after-christmas-day-epiphany-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-after-christmas-day-epiphany-year-c-liturgical-resources>

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes

Camera Operator: Val Gilcher

Video Coordinator: Lisa Sutherland

Communion Steward: Evelyn Scaglione

Worship Leader: Sue Alexander

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Fellowship Host: Hales

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

Choir Director: Bob Hale

Counters: Roger Templeton and Bob Hawes

Greeters: Val Gilcher

Acolytes: Lucy and Michael Babjak

Office Staff Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

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Treasurer: Carol Bell

Bible Study will resume the week of January 13th.

***The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce St, Clinton,
Connecticut***



***Morning Worship
January 5, 2025 10:00 am
2nd Sunday after Christmas
Communion***