



First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026



Our Mission

To make disciples for Jesus Christ through love and service

Our Vision

A loving and diverse community meeting the real needs of our neighbors through spirit-filled worship, intergenerational discipleship, and caring service

Come, Let Us Worship the Lord

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Nicolai/Saxton

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in unlikely places.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people seeking the assurance that we are not alone and that Love will have the last word.

God, help us find your glory.

†OPENING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*(UMH #251)**

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! Above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus

that hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

3. 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 hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

†SHARING THE PEACE

Please greet your neighbor and pass the Connect pads to register your attendance.

Proclamation

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

Childcare is available for children ages 5 and under in Room 121. Red drawstring "Worship Kid Kits" with children's bulletins are available in the entrance area each week for children to use throughout worship.

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter, Long Ago

Holst/Scott

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart,
give my heart.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

“Home by Another Way”

Pastor Duane

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Holy Communion

INVITATION

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

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH MUSICAL SETTINGS

(TFWS #2257a-d)*

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord;

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Amen, amen, amen,

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH #895)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom com,
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.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending Forth

†CLOSING HYMN

"We Three Kings"

(UMH #254)*

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of light,

star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)*

Amen, amen, amen.

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

The March of the Three Kings

Wilson

†Please stand if you are able.

*Songbooks are located in pew rack.