

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Celebration of Worship — Epiphany Sunday — January 3, 2021

---

- PRELUDE.....*IN DULCI JUBILO*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
[Good Christian Men, Rejoice!]  
Johann Sebastian Bach
- WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. Hobson
- CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. Hobson
- † HYMN OF PRAISE .....“The First Noel”.....See Hymn Insert
- † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Rev. Rasmussen  
See Affirmation of Faith on Text Page
- WELCOME, DR. STEVEN BELL.....Ross Barrett
- MUSICAL OFFERING.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Melonie Hilton, soprano  
arr. Craig Courtney
- † SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 2:1-12.....Ross Barrett  
See Scripture reading on text page
- † GLORIA PATRI  
*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.*
- JOYS & CONCERNS.....Rev. Joyce
- MORNING PRAYER ..... Rev. Joyce
- THE LORD’S PRAYER..... Congregation (speaks in unison)  
*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.*
- † HYMN OF PREPARATION.....“What Child is This”.....No. 219
- † OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Star Child*.....Andrew Hobson, treble  
Carlton Young  
Dr. Hobson, bass  
Al Hobson, bass  
Chancel Choir

† Doxology .....VENI EMMANUEL  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

MESSAGE.....**EVERY SEAT HAS A STORY**.....Dr. Bell  
The Visit of the Wise Men.

Three Faith Viruses to Watch Out for in 2021:

First, God exists for us – May we bring our King gold in 2021.

Second, Jesus’ disciples should spend our lives waiting – May we bring our God frankincense in 2021.

Third, The Bible has become irrelevant – May we bring our Sacrifice myrrh in 2021.

Romans 5:8 – “But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“We Three Kings”.....No. 254

*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Bell

*We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.*

BENEDICTION .....Dr. Bell

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Chancel Choir Ensemble  
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Noel Parisien*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
Charles Quief



**Crucifer:** Crawford Chaney

**Acolytes:** Karis Nix, Albany Lyles

**Banner Carrier:** Henry Peacock

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

## Hymn of Praise

### “The First Noel”

[Text slightly altered from other sources]

#### *Stanza 1*

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

#### *Refrain:*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

#### *Stanza 2*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

#### *Refrain*

#### *Stanza 3*

And by the light of that same star  
The Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

#### *Refrain*

#### *Stanza 4*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood our life hath bought.

#### *Refrain*

## Hymn of Preparation No. 219

### “What Child is This”

#### *Stanza 1*

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

#### *Refrain:*

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

#### *Stanza 2*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

#### *Refrain*

#### *Stanza 3*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

#### *Refrain*

Hymn of Invitation No. 254  
“We Three Kings”

*Stanza 1*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

*Stanza 2*

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

*Refrain*

*Stanza 3*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

*Refrain*

*Stanza 4*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*Refrain*

*Stanza 5*

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

## Affirmation of Faith

No. 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Matthew 2:1 - 12

- 1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem
- 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
- 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:
- 6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’[b]”
- 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.
- 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”
- 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.
- 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.