



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 6, 2019

Epiphany

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

P: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

L: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**P: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

P: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**P: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

L: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

P: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

L: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

P: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

THE SECOND READING Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘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.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.”

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

HOMILY

“Light Shine”

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Crossroad**, a residential program offered for children and youth, ages 6 to 21, with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. Community-based programs and a Mental Health Emergency Shelter are also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 157

Brightest and Best

Morning Star

Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve insert for more information and a QR link.

CLOSING HYMN

O star of wonder

Kings of Orient



WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant and preacher*

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

Rachael Gardner Purdy, *liturgist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Liturgist: Geoff Dean

Communion Preparataion & Refreshments: Julie & Tami Roth-Alexander