

THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



“Shining Hope” by Lauren Wright Pittman (2016).

“After a long journey, the star hovers, suspended over the wise men’s destination.

Shining Hope imagines the joy of this moment and reminds us to revel in wonder of the journey itself.”

✠ THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ✠

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 03, 2021 | 11.00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Salisbury, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1783



THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

THE LORD'S DAY, 03 January, *Anno Domini* 2020

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

✠ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

O God, You made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples Him whose Name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know Your Presence with us so to proclaim His unsearchable riches that all may come to His Light and bow before the brightness of His Rising, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

PRELUDE

All Glory Be to Christ

Joshua Starnes

arr. Kings Kaleidoscope

*Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn; All glory be to Christ!*

*All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, "All glory be to Christ!"*

*His will be done, His Kingdom come, on earth as is above,
Who is Himself our daily bread; Praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet; All glory be to Christ!*

*When on the Day the Great I AM, the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e'er His people be; All glory be to Christ!*

Words by: Dustin Kensrue

Music: AULD LANG SYNE; Traditional Scottish Folk Tune.

© 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music.

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the Gospel!

O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!

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 night, 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...**

3. **Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising, worship Him, God on high...**

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

5. **Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and Sacrifice:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Earth to heaven replies...**

Words: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857; (Matthew 2.1-12).

Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857.

✠ CALL to CONFESSION

Pastor Stacey Lundy

The Light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
Let us confess our sin to God and one another.

(a brief period of silence follows for personal confession)

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION *(in unison)*

O Lord, You are our light and our salvation.

When our light dims from division and anger, shine upon us with Your grace.

When our light fades from confusion and doubt, encourage us with Your hope.

When our light recedes behind sin and regret, heal us with Your mercy and truth.

**We pray that we might be unified and made one with You, one with each other, and one in
ministry to the world. Amen.**

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE

from John 1.9, 12

In the mercy of Almighty God, the True Light, Jesus Christ, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world,
and was given to die for you.

To all who receive Him and believe in His Name,

He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.; Refrain: Traditional English Carol.
 Music: Traditional English Carol.*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

Bill Noell

God of Epiphany,
 we long to hear Your Holy Word in fresh ways.
 Open our ears to the call of Your voice.
 Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.
 Open our hearts to the stirring of Your Holy Spirit.
 Fill us with anticipation for Your future. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1.1-7

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

✠ GRADUAL CAROL

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
 There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
 So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.
4. Holy Jesus, everyday keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*Words: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872.*

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Mark Conforti

THE SACRAMENT *of* HOLY BAPTISM

Emerson Belle Paul, *born August 12, 2020*
Daughter of Alexandria and William Paul

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Let us join now together in professing our Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,
using the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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.**

[*universal]

OFFERING

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PASTORAL PRAYER of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING

concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER (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.

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
in working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

2. Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

3. Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
another year of training for holier work above;
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
on earth, or else in Heaven, another year with Thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874.

Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864.

✠ BENEDICTION *and* COMMISSION

(Please bow your head and extend your hands to receive the blessing.)

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corner of your life.

Let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world.

And may the blessing of Almighty God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

Alleluia! Amen.

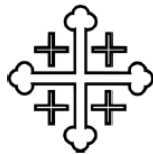
Let us go forth in peace and in the Light of Christ,

to make and nurture Christian disciples

through the presence and power of God.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

(listed alphabetically)

THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
MR. BILL NOELL	<i>Lector</i>
MS. JEN FOGT	<i>Video Producer</i>
THE REVEREND STACEY LUNDY	<i>Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Pastoral Care</i>
MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES	<i>Director of Music & Organist</i>



*The Story 2021 Lectionary
This weeks' readings (Jan. 03–09)*

<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Day 4</i>	<i>Day 5</i>
<i>Genesis 1–2</i>	<i>Genesis 3–5</i>	<i>Genesis 6 – 8</i>	<i>Genesis 9–11</i>	<i>Genesis 12–14</i>
<i>Psalm 104</i>	<i>Luke 3–4</i>	<i>Luke 5–6</i>	<i>Psalm 24</i>	<i>Psalm 108</i>
<i>Luke 1–2</i>			<i>Luke 7</i>	<i>Luke 8</i>



Our EPIPHANY Banner illustrates the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem led by the Star, which represents light and truth. Epiphany comes from the Greek word “epiphania,” which means “manifestation.” This season shows that God was made visible to the world through the birth of Jesus, His baptism, and earthly ministry.



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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*