



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



January 3, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE (9:50 am) 'Arabian Dance' from *The Nutcracker* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

People: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

People: We live into the Light's new wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

People: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem's cradle.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN Hymn Medley played and arr. by Sylvia and Dale Munsch

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness.

We wonder if we are loveable.

Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

People: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices.

Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace?

We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

People: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

But in Christ, God has given us a new Light,
kindling unconditional love for us,
and showing us a well-lit path
to wholeness and forgiveness;
to courage and clarity.

People: Thanks be to God.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken' verses 1 and 2

No. 709

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

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.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

ANTHEM

'Do You Hear What I Hear'

PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: Bathed in starlight, we pray together
to the One who created all things, saying,
Show us your child, O God,

**People: For we observed a new star at its rising
and have traveled far, bearing gifts.**

Leader: Make your wisdom in its rich variety known through all faithful people,
and give your holy church grace to bear the gifts of truth and love
to all your children on earth.

[silence]

Leader: Show us your child, O God,

People: For we walk together in faith.

Leader: Give your justice to the nations and their leaders,
and give your mercy to all whose decisions
affect the peace and well-being of the world.

Where we have power ourselves,
open our ears to the cries of the weak, the poor, and the needy,
and open our hearts to answer their call.

[silence]

Leader: Show us your child, O God,

People: For we walk together in hope.

Leader: Bless this community,
that in your light we may each become a servant, one to the other.
Bring us together in story, song, joy, and sorrow;
and let every daughter and son who comes among us
find kinship in this place.

[silence]

Leader: Show us your child, O God,

People: For we walk together in love.

Leader: Have mercy on those among us
who journey in sickness, fear, or any kind of trouble.
Meet them on your road with rest, peace, and good cheer.

[silence]

Leader: Show us your child, O God,

People: For we walk together by your side.

Leader: We remember those who have died.

[silence]

Leader: Your star goes before them. Show them your child, O God,

People: For they have traveled far to be with you.

Leader: Dear God, with longing and thanksgiving,
knowing that you hold this world and all its children dear in your heart,
we pray this night for the grace to receive your gifts,
to lift up our eyes and look around,
and to offer back those same gifts to you and your world, with love.

Leader: Show us your child, O God,

People: For we observed a new star at its rising and have traveled far, bearing gifts.

Leader: To the One who is the road on which we travel,
our companion along the way, and our journey's end,
we pray in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'What Child is This?' traditional carol arr. by Dale Munsch and Sylvia Berry

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Dale Munsch, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Blain, Rev. Susan A. "Festival of Epiphany - January 6." United Church of Christ, 7 Dec. 2020, www.ucc.org/festival_of_epiphany_january_6_2020.

²McGee, Margaret D. Prayers of the People for Epiphany, 30 Nov. 2012, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/prayers-of-people-for-epiphany.html.

709 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken,
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters,
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering,

Zi - on, cit - y of our God; God, whose word can -
 spring - ing from e - ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy
 see the cloud and fire ap - pear for a glo - ry

not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 and a cov - ering, show - ing forth that God is near!

On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

AUSTRIAN HYMN
 87.87D

sure - re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like our God, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the

round - ed, thou may - est smile at all thy foes.
 Giv - er, nev - er falls from age to age.
 man - na which God gives them when they pray.