



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



January 7, 2024

10:00 am

*\*AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE\**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moriah Park

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'When Morning Gilds the Skies'

No. 100

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**ALL: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

Leader: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**ALL: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

Leader: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**ALL: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed  
by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

**OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>**

**\*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>2</sup>**

Leader: Arise, shine - for your light has come.

**ALL: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**ALL: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**ALL: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for  
his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

Leader: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**ALL: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your  
coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light  
break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our  
time. Amen.**



<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## SERMON

Pastor Jeff Kardisco

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

*During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.*

### Come and Light a Candle...



## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

**Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

'We Three Kings'

John H. Hopkins, Jr.

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'Brightest and Best' (vs 3&4)

No. 174.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION



## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**\*At Christ Congregational Church we serve communion at an open table, which means ALL are welcome to participate. This means a few things:**

1. *None of the cups for communion contain wine.*
2. *People of all ages are welcome to receive communion.*
3. *People of all faiths are welcome to receive communion.*
4. *People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome to receive communion.*
5. *People who are not able to come forward to receive communion are still welcome to receive it, please let a deacon know if you need the pastor or another server to bring the elements to you.*

*Today's communion will be received by coming forward to the chancel. Once your row has been dismissed by a deacon please proceed down the center aisle to receive the elements, and then once you've consumed them please return to your seat using the aisles to the side.*

### INVITATION

Leader: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day sat at the table with two disciples where he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**ALL: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. All are welcome - men and women and non-binary or gender non-conforming people, youth and children, gay and straight, all are welcome. All come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Leader: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ, for those who seek a deeper relationship with God, and for those who wish to share in the community of God's people.

### REMEMBERING THE STORY

We remember that on his last night, just before he would be betrayed and deserted, Jesus gathered his closest friends together for a love feast in honor of Passover.

At the table Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks for it he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory.

Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP**

## **SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

'O Taste and See'

Douglas E. Wagner

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **HYMN**

'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise'

No. 66

## **BENEDICTION<sup>3</sup>**

### **POSTLUDE**

Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ  
("In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord")

Johann Pachelbel

### **Participating In Today's Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

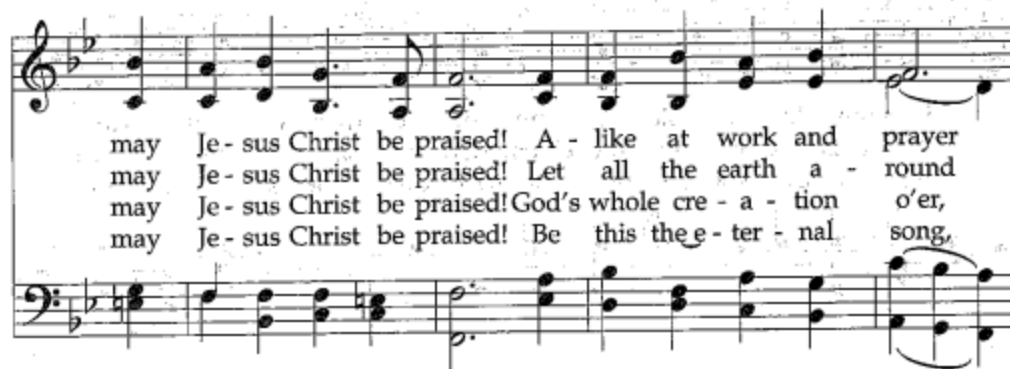
<sup>1</sup>Shuman, Thomas. "Call to Worship & Prayer: Epiphany." *Call to Worship & Prayer: Epiphany*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/call-to-worship-prayer-epiphany.html. Accessed 3 Jan. 2024.

<sup>2</sup>Unknown, Author. "Prayer of Confession: Isaiah 60: 1-3." *Prayer of Confession: Isaiah 60: 1-3*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayer-of-confession-isaiah-60-1-3.html. Accessed 3 Jan. 2024.

<sup>3</sup>J, Rev. Nancy. "Prayer of Confession: Isaiah 60: 1-6." *Prayer of Confession: Isaiah 60: 1-6*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayer-of-confession-isaiah-60-1-6.html. Accessed 3 Jan. 2024.



1. When morn ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,  
 2. Dis - cord - ant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,  
 3. Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, all that see his face;  
 4. Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine;



may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,



to Je - sus I re - pair; may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ring joy - ous with the sound, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 both now and ev - er - more: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

WORDS: German hymn (early 19th century); tr. Edward Caswall, 1858, alt.  
 MUSIC: Joseph Barnby, 1868

LAUDES DOMINI  
 666.666

Brightest and Best

Unison Gm B<sup>b</sup> Dm

1. Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn-ing,  
3. Vain-ly we of-fer each am-ple ob-la-tion,

Cm Dm Gm

dawn on our path-way and lend us your aid.  
vain-ly with gifts Je-sus' fa-vor se-ure.

B<sup>b</sup> Dm

Star of the east, the ho-ri-zon a-dorn-ing,  
Rich-er by far is the heart's ad-o-ra-tion.

Cm Dm Gm

guide where our in-fant Re-deem-er is laid.  
Dear-er to God are the gifts of the poor.

Dm F Gm

2. Shall we give Je-sus our cost-ly de-vo-tion,  
4. Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn-ing,

C Dm Cm Dm

fra-grance of E-dom, and of-f'rings di-vine,  
dawn on our path-way, and lend us your aid;

Gm Cm Gm B<sup>b</sup> Dm

gems of the moun-tain and pearls of the o-cean,  
star of the east, the ho-ri-zon a-dorn-ing,

Cm Dm Gm

myrrh from the for-est and gold from the mine?  
guide where our in-fant Re-deem-er is laid.

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1811, alt.  
MUSIC: Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. Marty Haugen, 1987  
Harm. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR IN THE EAST  
11 10.11 10D

I Am the Light of the World!

Unison F B $\flat$  C F

"I am the light of the world!

B $\flat$  C F

You peo - ple come and fol - low me!" If you

Gm Dm C F B $\flat$

fol - low and love you'll learn the mys - ter - y of

Gm C F *Fine*

what you were meant to do and be.

WORDS: Jim Strathdee, 1969, in response to a Christmas poem  
by Howard Thurman  
MUSIC: Jim Strathdee, 1969

LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
Irr.  
♩=92-100

F B $\flat$  C F

1. When the song of the an - gels is stilled, when the  
2. To find the lost and lone - ly one, to  
3. To free the pris - ner from all chains, to  
4. To bring hope to ev - 'ry task you do, to

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, when the  
heal the bro - ken soul with love, to  
make the pow - er - ful care, to  
dance at a ba - by's new birth, to

F B $\flat$  C F

ma - gi and the shep - herds have found their way home, the  
feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, to  
re - build the na - tions with strength of good will, to  
make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Gm B $\flat$  C

work of Christ - mas is be - gun:  
feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!  
see God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where!  
sing to the col - ors of the earth!

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 66

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all prais - es we ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 that on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody

ST. DENIO  
 11 11.11 11