



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



January 5, 2025

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**

'As With Gladness'

No. 173

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Light! Light, light and more light!
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**All: Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

Leader: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
Magi came from the East, saying:

Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

**All: For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.**

OPENING PRAYER¹

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE² (in unison)**

**God of light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us,
but we have turned away and followed other paths.**

**We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart,
with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One.

**Strengthen our faltering steps
and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.**

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS³**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.

All: The light of God shines through the darkness.

Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'Brightest and Best' (vs 1&2)

No. 174

STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF LIGHT: AN EPIPHANY STORY

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Jeff & Dani 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

On this day when peoples from afar came to worship Jesus the Lord, let our prayer be as wide as the world. Let us say to God:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

That the light of Christ may shine on all nations far and near and that the Church may welcome them with the diversity of their cultures, let us pray to God:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

That in our day justice may flourish and peace come to all of the world, let us pray:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

That God's people may hear the poor when they cry, have pity on the weak and open their hearts and hands to the needy, let us pray:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

That all who look for a star to guide them may discover the goodness Jesus in people full of faith and love, let us pray:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

That in our Christian communities we may learn, like the Magi, to share the treasures of our goods and hearts, let us pray:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people.

Lord our God, we rejoice that you have become near to us in Jesus your Son who taught us to pray:

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 'I Believe' (Miller)

*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

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

'I am the Light of the World'

No. 469

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Sonatina in C Major'

(Clementi)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

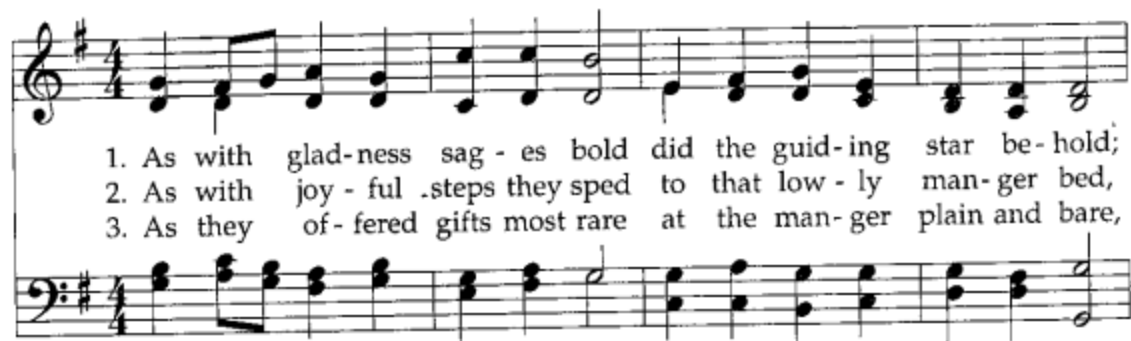
Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

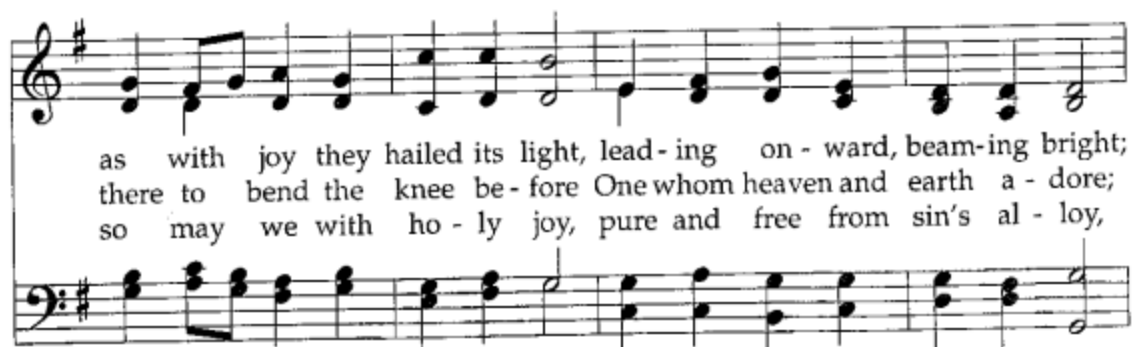
Laura Ramos, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

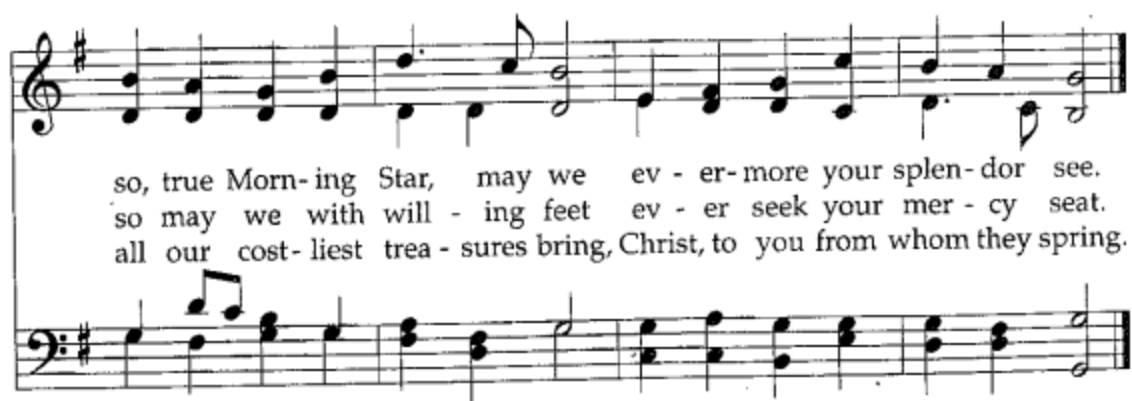
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director



1. As with glad-ness sag - es bold did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy - ful .steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at the man-ger plain and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



so, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen-dor see.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1861, alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

Brightest and Best

Unison Gm B \flat 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,

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,

Cm Dm Gm

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

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;

B \flat Dm

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

Gm Cm Gm B \flat 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

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

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

469 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!