



**First Reformed United Church of Christ**

*Where People Discover...*

*The Love of God...*

*The Power to Love Others...*

*The Ability to Love Ourselves*

**January 2, 2022**  
**The Worship of God**

**Epiphany and**  
**Holy Communion**

**Prelude**

*"We Three Kings"*  
Arr. Mark Hayes

Christopher Kiser

**\*Chimes**

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Evan Sieges

**Call to Worship**

We come to this place—

**each of us on our own path.**

The path is winding,

**and the path is not always clear,**

and the path changes,

**but we are here.**

God is walking us home.

**What a gift it is**

to not walk alone.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

Dave Fulton

**\*Congregational Hymn**

*"The First Noel"*

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**Invocation**

Dave Fulton

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 60: 1-6 (NRSV)

Dave Fulton

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.

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Sieges

**Prayer of Confession**

**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.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

# The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about . . . Mt. 1:18

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star three wise men  
4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their  
east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great  
came from coun - try far, to seek for a king was their in -  
hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and

*Refrain*  
sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No -  
tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Traditional English carol  
MUSIC: W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833; arr. John Stainer, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL  
Irregular

Special Music

"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Ellen Peterson  
& Carolyn Robbins

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2: 1-12

Rev. Sieges

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**

"Living into a New Year"

**Service of Holy Communion**

Rev. Sieges

God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Communion Prayer****Serving the Bread and Cup**

*You may eat and drink when you have been served.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving****Call to Serve and to Give****Prayer of Dedication**

Dave Fulton

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Sieges

**Postlude**

"Festive Celebration"  
arr. Jason Krug

Christopher Kiser

**~ Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit. ~**

**After the service, you are invited to join in the Prayer Circle in the front of the sanctuary.**

**The Decorating Committee will stay after worship to help take down Christmas decorations. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!**

## FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never, before attended one, you are welcome here.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**LITURGIST:** Dave Fulton

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECHS:** Kivi & Jia Miller

**SOUND TECH:** Dave Fulton

**ACOLYTE:** Emma Hartle

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Jacob Hartle

**USHERS:** John Gray, Lisa Nelson, John Smith, Michell Winters, Eddie Yates

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Jeremy Lovell (recovering from surgery), Alisa Johnson (recovering from surgery)

### AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Lee & Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Jeff Hutchens, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, John Potts & Janette Neal, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

### OUR FRIENDS:

Nicole Holste (Alane Holste's sister-in-love), Family of Will Swaim (friend of Alane Holste), Ed Leonard (Sylvia Walser's brother), Miller Abernathy (Sylvia Walser's son-in-law), The family of Evelyn York (friend of Alane Holste), The Family of Ruth "P-nut" Kennedy (friend of Alane Holste), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye, Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law)

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS:

3<sup>rd</sup>...Carroll Spivey

5<sup>th</sup>...Jianna Miller...Smithie Parrish

6<sup>th</sup>...Gennie Lou Byerly

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, January 2: Epiphany and Holy Communion

**9:30AM**      **Adult Bible Study:** "The Light of Home"  
John 1:1-9, 10-18 (Facilitator: Rev. June Grubb)

**10:30AM**      **Worship Service:**  
**IN THE PULPIT: Rev. Evan Sieges**

### Following Worship

Prayer Circle

**Take down Christmas decorations...anyone who would like to help is welcome!**

### Tuesday, January 4:

**12:00PM**      **2CFAR (via Zoom)**

### Wednesday, January 5:

**5:30PM**      **Confirmation**

**6:30PM**      **Choir Practice**

**Children's Fun and Games**

**Youth Study**

**Thursday, January 6:**

**4-6:00PM**      **Clothes Closet Work Day**

**Saturday, January 8:**

**12:30PM**      **Take-out Lunch Ministry (Kitchen)**

**Sunday, January 9: First Sunday after Epiphany**

**9:30AM**      **Adult Bible Study: "Well Pleased"**  
The Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

**10:30AM**      **Worship Service**

**10:45AM**      **Children's Worship**

**Following Worship**

**Prayer Circle**

**11:45AM**      **Consistory Meeting**

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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