



**STAR SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
*with UCC Westerly*

**January 2, 2022 @ 9:45am**  
**Broadcast live from our sanctuary**

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**Gathering Music –**

**PASTOR’S WELCOME**

**Prelude – "Just as I Am"**

by John M. Basley, on hymn tune WOODWORTH, by William B. Bradbury, ©1965 by Lorenz Publishing Company.  
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**DEACON’S GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP –**

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for the good of the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**OPENING CAROL – *The First Noel***

*W&R#229, v. 1-3*

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**UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

**Ever Gracious God, in this season of light, be patient when we are distracted by the flashy glitter and noisy clatter of the world. Guide us true when the Jesus Star of Christmas is obscured by neon lights and plastic people. Embolden us to rekindle the spark of your Spirit within our hearts guiding us forward. Illuminate our way through the darkness that threatens to overwhelm that we may be the light, love and hope the world needs. We pray this and every prayer in the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Light. Amen.**

**A SIMPLE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Words of Invitation, Explanation and Consecration

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Loving God, we give you thanks for this time of refreshment at the table of Jesus. Renew our faith, refresh our souls and increase our love for each other and all of your beloved people.**

**Fill us each day with the light your presence showing us the way forward through life you would have us follow. Amen.**

**A MESSAGE FOR EPIPHANY & STAR SUNDAY**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

*Message – "Following the Star"*

Lynn Murray, Deacon  
Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!"

MUSIC by Philipp Nicolai, arranged by J.S. Bach, ©Public Domain

W&R 230

### **A TIME OF PRAYER**

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

Musical response

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings\*

Anthem – "Another Year is Dawning"

Performed by the voice choir

WORDS by Frances R. Havergal, MUSIC by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, ©Public Domain.

Doxology "*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.*"

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**CLOSING SONG** – *We Three Kings*

W&R#233

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION**

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 240]

Depart in peace to do God's will and walk ever in the light. Know Christ is with you ever more, to guide you day and night. Amen.

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**POSTLUDE** – "Sing Praise"

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### **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.

*STAR WORDS - 2022*

|                           |                          |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>* Grace *</i>          | <i>* Bravery *</i>       | <i>* Happiness *</i>    |
| <i>* Hope *</i>           | <i>* Generosity *</i>    | <i>* Spirituality *</i> |
| <i>* Patience *</i>       | <i>* Prayer *</i>        | <i>* Service *</i>      |
| <i>* Fearlessness *</i>   | <i>* Determination *</i> | <i>* Nurture *</i>      |
| <i>* Renewal *</i>        | <i>* Purpose *</i>       | <i>* Peace *</i>        |
| <i>* Courage *</i>        | <i>* Excitement *</i>    | <i>* Harmony *</i>      |
| <i>* Reliability *</i>    | <i>* Goodness *</i>      | <i>* Joy *</i>          |
| <i>* Serenity *</i>       | <i>* Humor *</i>         | <i>* Sacredness *</i>   |
| <i>* Genuineness *</i>    | <i>* Illumination *</i>  | <i>* Love *</i>         |
| <i>* Dependability *</i>  | <i>* Endurance *</i>     | <i>* Honor *</i>        |
| <i>* Accountability *</i> | <i>* Clarity *</i>       | <i>* Sincerity *</i>    |

|                           |                          |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| * <i>Communication</i> *  | * <i>Light</i> *         | * <i>Motivation</i> *   |
| * <i>Creativity</i> *     | * <i>Quietness</i> *     | * <i>Curiosity</i> *    |
| * <i>Deliberation</i> *   | * <i>Playfulness</i> *   | * <i>Appreciation</i> * |
| * <i>Cheerfulness</i> *   | * <i>Focus</i> *         | * <i>Balance</i> *      |
| * <i>Affirmation</i> *    | * <i>Connection</i> *    | * <i>Faithfulness</i> * |
| * <i>Sympathy</i> *       | * <i>Empathy</i> *       | * <i>Sensitivity</i> *  |
| * <i>Commitment</i> *     | * <i>Attention</i> *     | * <i>Delight</i> *      |
| * <i>Responsiveness</i> * | * <i>Grounded-ness</i> * | * <i>Intelligence</i> * |