



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 2, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand, if you are able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. **Those wishing to make an announcement** are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. **Prayer request cards** may be found on the tables at the back of the church. **Offerings** may be placed in the marked boxes on the tables at the back of the church.*

PRELUDE *Joy of All the Earth*

Marti Lunn Lantz/David Lantz

CALL TO WORSHIP

New beginnings and revelations:

God's light seen in many ways.

Epiphanies of grace and truth:

the Christ-spirit shining in a world of need.

These are our gifts and our call;

**like wise ones before us, we follow the light,
we choose the path and look for God.**

Friends, let us rejoice in this season of new beginning:

for God makes all things new.

***HYMN** *The First Nowell* Pilgrim (red), 141

1. *The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain: *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

2. *They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

Refrain

3. *And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.*

Refrain

4. *This star drew nigh to the northwest, oe'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.*

Refrain

5. *Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence, their gold & myrrh & frankincense.*

Refrain

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and Eternal One,
who sends us births, beginnings and light,
we give thanks for every epiphany that shows us who you are,
for every experience that shines your love upon us.
May your wisdom guide us on our present journeys
and make us ready for those to come,
hopeful for the work of seeking,
and open for all that Christ teaches us
of love, compassion and courage.
In his name and spirit we pray, as we also say together:

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Gloria*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff contains two measures of music, each with a circled number above it (1 and 2). The second staff also contains two measures of music, each with a circled number above it (3 and 4). Chord symbols (Dm, Gm, C, F) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ANTHEM *O'er the Hill and O'er Vale* (to the tune Bernolt Tempore) words by Dr. Neale
Jim Todd—vocal soloist

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Karen Needham

Following this, children may go to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Loving Spirit, into a world of beauty and need you call us,
and for that world you equip us – to shine our light,
to give our gifts, to be bearers of the love of Christ.
May all that we offer, in the church and in the world,
become the work of love, for the sake of the gospel
and for the sake your beloved creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* Pilgrim (red), 136

1. *On this day, earth shall ring with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ, our King, born on earth to save us,
Him the Father gave us.*

Refrain: Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. *His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him
From the cold would hide him.*

Refrain

3. *God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led,
Kneeling low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,
raise him and adore him.*

Refrain

4. *On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's king, born on earth to save us,
Peace and love he gave us.*

Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *The Shepherd's Carol*

Dan Forrest