

The First Congregational Church
January 3, 2021

Kent, Connecticut
10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #233 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*
We three kings of Orient are, bearing gift we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, drying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and

bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (#734)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

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; 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

HYMN #229

The First Noel

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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shinning in the East, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great Light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood our life hath brought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Preface and Sanctus

Leader: It is indeed good, right and salutary always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ your Son.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give us the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise your name with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who proclaim your glory with their unending hymn . . .

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Prayer

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

All: We give you thanks, O Lord, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. Send us into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to love others as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN #179

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing; and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessing flow,
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith
Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt
Organist: John Paul Zurlo
Soloist: Veralyn Davee
Video Team: Jennifer Moros and Bethany Keck

WE WELCOME ALL who are worshipping with us via the internet.

OFFERING

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly
First Congregational Church

PO Box 306
Kent, CT 06757

Prayer List:

Doctors, Nurses, Hospital staff, prayers for PPE, treatments, vaccines, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Food service people, truck drivers, all those out of work, Barbie, Sawyer, Living Water Church, The Duncan Family, Lewis, Peggy, Judy's sister. Joe, Eric and family, Matt, Don, Leslie.

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