

The First Congregational Church
January 9, 2021

Kent, Connecticut
10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love
Epiphany

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord
has risen upon you.

**People: For darkness shall cover the earth, and think darkness
cover the people.**

Leader: But the Lord shall rise upon you, and his glory will appear
over you.

**People: Nations shall come your light, and kings to the brightness
of your dawn.**

*HYMN #229

The First Noel (vs. 1-3)

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where 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
Shinin in the easy, 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 the 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

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, on this day you revealed you 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, for
we pray in Jesus' name. 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.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

*HYMN #229

The First Noel (vs. 4-6)

This star drew night 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 bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in
their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John
answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who
is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong
of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His
winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to

gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

SERMON

*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, worshipping 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.*

PRAYER CONCERNS, 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Doxology (#34)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #247

Sing of God Made Manifest

Sing of god made manifest in a child robust and blest
To whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,
Magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
Myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and King foretold.

Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,

“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do”

Then from heaven a double sign dove like Spirit, voice divine

Hailed the true Anointed One: “This is my beloved Son”

Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest

And at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;

Further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave, and healed,

Bringing light and life to all who would listen to God’s call.

Sing of God made manifest on the cloud capped mountain’s crest,

Where the law and prophets waned so that Christ alone remained;

Glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face

Towards the waiting cross and grave, sigh of hope that God would save.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith

Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt

Organist: John Paul Zurlo
Video Team: Bethany Keck
Deacon of the month: Carol Kallstrom

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

Prayer List:

Doctors, Nurses, Hospital staff, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Peggy, Eric, Scott, Darrell, Barbie, Liz, Bonnie Jo, Norm, Nancy, Pastor John's father

OFFERING

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly

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