

**The First Congregational Church**  
January 8, 2023

**Kent, Connecticut**  
10:00 AM

*A Community of Faith, Service and Love*  
*Epiphany*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: The Magi who studied the heavens followed a guiding star.**

Leader: O Come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light!**

Leader: O Come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: Christ, the Word made Flesh, makes us heirs of the promises of salvation.**

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

**O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the world: Lead us, who know you now by faith, into your presence, where we may see your glory face to face. Through Christ our Lord we pray. 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

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, 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

HYMN #233 *We Three King 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.*

THE BAPTISM of Ollivander George Ewers Insert

\*HYMN #677 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*  
Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name

Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know who's child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

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.**

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

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Ministers: Community of Faith

Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt  
Organist: Eunyoung DiGiacomo  
Deacon of the Month: Jody Lampe  
Video Team: Bethany Keck

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

**Prayer List:**

Peggy, Scott, Barbie, Liz, Lewis, Our Community, Ukraine, Our world leaders.

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly  
First Congregational Church  
PO Box 306  
Kent, CT 06757

Phone: 860-927-3335 Website: <a href="http://fccofkentct.org">fccofkentct.org</a> Minister: <a href="mailto:fcckentminister@gmail.com">fcckentminister@gmail.com</a> Office: <a href="mailto:fcckentoffice@gmail.com">fcckentoffice@gmail.com</a>
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AA meets every Monday and Friday in the Parish house at 8pm.

**Senior Lunch: New Years Edition-**We're so excited to continue our fantastic partnership with the Town of Kent Social Services Department by offering a fun 2023 kick-off luncheon to all of our area seniors on Thursday, January 12th at 12:00 noon at the Kent Senior Center. The KP&R staff and volunteers will be whipping up a wonderful meal, menu to be determined. Advanced registration is not required but is appreciated and can be done by contacting the Kent Park & Recreation office at 860-927-1003. As always, all of our senior meals are totally free of charge!

## The Baptism of Ollivander George Ewers

### The Presentation

Pastor: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in all. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls. Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show to whom we belong. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptisms, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Pastor: Who has been brought before God to be baptized?

**Parents: We present Ollivander George Ewers to receive the sacrament of baptism.**

Pastor: Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to Ollivander?

**Parents: I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, through prayer and example, to support and encourage Ollivander to be a faithful Christian?

**Parents: I do.**

### The Profession of Faith

Pastor: Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. As God embraces you within the covenant, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**Parents: I do.**

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**Parents: I do.**

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**Parents: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess the faith.  
Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

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

Pastor: We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. We praise you that through the waters of the sea, you led your people Israel out of bondage, and into freedom in the land of your promise. We praise you for sending Jesus, your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection, you set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and give us cleansing and rebirth. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may be the womb of new birth. May Ollivander, as he passes through this water, be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness. Bind him to the household of faith, guard him from evil, and strengthen him to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new. To you be all praise, honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Baptism**

**Welcome**

Pastor: Ollivander has been received into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of his household, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Ollivander's parents are Gretchen and Benjamin Ewers  
and his godparents are Rebecca Waterman and Kaitlyn  
Guendelsberger Gingras*