



North Liberty First

A United Methodist Community of Faith

January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

Whether you are joining us in person or on-line, know that we are here to journey along with you as you grow in love of God and neighbor, and as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Remembering our Baptism

Deb Brastrom

***Hymn**

The First Noel

UMH 245

*Call to Worship

We gather as people looking for the star,
a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence,
the assurance that we are not alone and
Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

***Hymn** **We Three Kings** **Verses 1, 2, 5**

UMH 254

First Lesson **Isaiah 60:1-6**

CEB

Word for Children

Second Lesson **Matthew 2:1-12**

CEB

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with

Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Message for the Lord's Day

Rev. Deborah Coble

***Response To The Word**

Gloria Patri

UMH 70

**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.**

***Hymn**

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

Prayers of the People

After each petition, there will be a pause for silent prayer. After Pastor says "Lord in your mercy" ALL reply "hear our prayers."

Together, let us pray for the people of this congregation...

for those who suffer and those in trouble...
for the concerns of this local community...
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...
for the earth you have given to our care...
for the Church universal; its leaders, its members,
and its mission,
in communion with the saints...

Mission And Ministry Moment

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology**

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

Prayer of Confession

The prophet speaks of the coming light of God which calls all the people of the earth to come together in God's realm of shalom. Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected God's vision of wholeness.

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives. The light of God shines through the darkness. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The 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.

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

***Benediction**

**Life is short and we have too little time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,**

and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.