

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 20269:30 a.m.

* Congregation stands if able and comfortable. Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

UMH – Red or PurpleTFWS - BlackW&S – Green

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

PRELUDEVariations on We Three Kingsarr. Christiansen

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS OUR MIDST

Emmanuel, EmmanuelUMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Come, let us worship the Lord who established a new covenant through the Son Jesus Christ.

We come in spirit and in truth.

*SONG OF ADORATION

Angels from the Realms of GloryUMH 220, vs. 1 & 3

WORDS OF JOHN WESLEY ABOUT THE COVENANT

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Come let us pray, let us worship our Creator, the God of love; God continually preserves and sustains us; we have been loved with an everlasting love; through Jesus Christ we have been given complete knowledge of God’s glory.

You are God; we praise you; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor, he was tempted in all points as we are, but he was without sin; he went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom; he accepted death, death on the cross; he was dead and is alive forever; he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who trust in him; he sits in glory at the right hand of God; he will come again to be our Judge.

You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life. Through the Spirit we are born into the family of God and made members of the body of Christ; the witness of the Spirit will do far more for us than we ask or think.

All praise to you, Holy Spirit. Amen.

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on Higharr. Barnes & Lovelace

Chancel Choir

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

GOSPEL LESSONMatthew 2:1-12Pew Bible NT 2

May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF RESPONSEWe Three KingsUMH 254, v. 1-4

EPIPHANY MESSAGEThe Gift of StarsRev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYERFUL CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins to God....

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him. Our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of our gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Let each of us in silence make confession to God.

(A silent pause for personal prayer)

Have mercy on us, Lord and forgive us.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit with me.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now the message...God will forgive us all our wrongdoing.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

COVENANT

In the old covenant...

...trusting in God’s promises and relying on God’s grace.

I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation. Let me suffer for you. Give me the work you would have me do. Give me many tasks or have me step aside while you call others. Put me forward or humble me. Give me riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you. And now, Holy God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity.

Let us pray...

Creator God, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ as mediator of a new covenant; give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith and join ourselves in perpetual covenant with you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENTUMH 399 vs. 1&3

Take My Life, and Let It Be

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Christ invites to this table...God’s grace for the future!

This is a day of new beginnings,UMH 383, vs. 1

time to remember and move on,

time to believe what love is bringing,

laying to rest the pain that’s gone...

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts in this new day.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...yet again what your steadfast love can do.

In faith we’ll gather round the tableUMH 383, vs. 5

to taste and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings;

our God is making all things new...

Holy are you, blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

he healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those others considered unworthy. Through him, faith and hope were born again for so many.

For by the life and death of Jesus,UMH 383, vs. 2

God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,

can make for us a world of difference,

as faith and hope are born again...

On the night in which he gave himself up for us...

...as followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery of Christ’s death, Christ’s resurrection, and the promise of Christ’s return.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,UMH 383, vs. 3

step from the past and leave behind

our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,

seeking new paths, and sure to find...

**Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.**

I Come with Joy UMH 617
One Bread, One Body UMH 620

COUNTERS: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra



This Week We Hold in Prayer...

Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Jean Gill, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary

Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elain Gould

At home: Peg Kuchen, Avery Fallon

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Sunnyside Manor: Nancy Burt

**The church has a team of prayers, known as the Prayer Chain.

If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DIAPER DRIVE-The congregation is collecting diapers for Maker's Place, a GNJ mission site. This drive will support low-income families in the Trenton area. The pastor will match every diaper received by January 6th.

2026 PLEDGE ENVELOPES are now available. You will find them in the foyer. Please take yours and perhaps those of someone to whom you can deliver so we can save on the cost of postage.

JAVA WITH JILL-has a new date! The group will meet on January 20th this month. All are welcome to meet with Pastor Jill and friends at the Blue Swan Diner at 10:00 a.m. for coffee (or whatever) and a chat.

FREE COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER-January's dinner date is the 18th. You may eat in or take out a free dinner of bread, salad, spaghetti with meatballs or sausage or marinara, and dessert. Service starts at 5 p.m.

FOLDING CHAIRS-The church is giving away padded folding chairs that used to be used in Blair Chapel. You may take as many as you'd like. They are currently being stored in Wesley Hall.

MERCY CENTER'S FOOD PANTRY is currently seeking beans, pasta, low-sodium soup, peanut butter, & canned meats.

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2026 Leadership

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| Ad Council Chairperson | Tim Haider |
| At Large: Scott Danielson, Barbara Gruezke, Walter Dietz | |
| Recording Secretary | Tim Haider |
| Lay Leader | OPEN |
| Lay Member to Annual Conference | Ronald Danielson |
| Reserve Lay Member | Cathy Stopyra |
| Blair Scholarship Committee | Ronald Danielson |
| Barbara MacPherson, Buster Stoll, Chip Stoll, Joy More, Scott Danielson, Steve Furda | |
| Church School Superintendent | Sue Johnson |
| Endowment Committee | Sandy Brown |
| Treasurer | Jeff Ragle |
| Steve Furda, Bob Crowther, Ron Puryear, Cathy Stopyra, Jeff Ragle, Garry Smith, Michele Haider, Diane Maher, Ruth Sheckler | |
| Finance Chairperson | Garry Smith |
| Treasurer | Nancy Tocci |
| Finance Secretary | John Montgomery |
| Income Records | Mary Bailey |
| Randy Danielson, Ron Danielson, Tim Haider | |
| Membership Secretary | Diane Maher |
| Memorial Committee | Diane Maher |
| Ron Danielson, Joy More, Randy Danielson | |
| Outreach Committee | Jeff Danielson |
| Diane Maher, Diane Plumser, Soon Hur, Joy More, Pam Saunders | |
| Prayer Garden Committee | Mary Bailey & Steven Skoulas |
| Cindy Tanta-Nanta, Jennifer Sisco, Sue Johnson, Barbara Gruezke | |
| Staff Parish Chairperson | OPEN |
| Peg Kuchen, Carol Steinat, Nancy O’Shea, John Tocci, Ruth Sheckler, Robin Whitney | |
| Trustees President | Greg Scott |
| Randy Danielson, Barbara Gruezke, Dan Varian, Scott Danielson, Bob Crowther, Chip Stoll, Joy More, Mike Sheckler | |
| United Women In Faith | Diane Maher |
| Wesley Nursery School | Barbara MacPherson |
| Sue Johnson, Pam Saunders, Carol Steinat, Joan Brown, Randy Danielson | |
| Worship Committee | Leonard Gruezke |
| Diane Maher, Joy More, Pam Lynch, Ron Danielson, Sue Johnson, Barbara Gruezke, Denise Furda, Chip Stoll, Barbara MacPherson, Buster Stoll, Mary Bailey, Steve Skoulas | |
| Knitting Ministry | Judy Gorra, Jane Gittines, |
| Gail Plumeri, Diane Maher, Melody Ragle | |
| Woman’s Covenant Group | Joy More |
| Faye Snorton, Gerry Busfield, Ellen Dykstra, Diane Maher | |

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