

# City Road United Methodist Church

*A Lighthouse Congregation*

**Rev. Josh Tester, Pastor**



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**Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Worship: 11:00 a.m.**

**Tommy Venters- Organist/Choir Director  
Dawn Baker- Secretary/Technology Specialist  
JoAnn Herring- We Care**

# *Service of Word & Table*

## *Epiphany Sunday*

*January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

*11:00 a.m.*

### *Gathering*

*Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.*

*Prelude*

*Introit: Majesty*

*UMH 176*

*Words of Welcome*

*Josh Tester, Pastor*

*Call to Worship:*

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

**People: God, help us find your glory.**

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

**People: God, help us notice your glory.**

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

**People: God, help us encounter your glory.**

Leader: 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.

***All: Holy 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.***

\*Prayer of Approach

***O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us to know your presence with us so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all may come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.***

*Sharing Peace*

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

*\*Hymn of Praise: Amazing Grace*

*UMH 378*

*Vs: 1-3 & 6*

### *Proclamation and Response*

*We open ourselves to the full story of Christ's birth, knowing that his story is the ground of our faith and the light for our path. Our faithful response is to praise God for this story of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, even and especially in the midst of difficulty, for God is indeed with us even still.*

*Call to Prayer*

*Prayers of the People*

*Children's Time*

*Call to Offering*

*Offertory*

*\*Doxology: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" v 2*

224

**Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;**

now ye hear of endless bliss:  
 News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 He hath opened the heaven's door,  
 and ye are blest forevermore.  
 Christ was born for this,  
 Christ was born for this!

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

*\*Hymn of Preparation: Morning Has Broken*

*UMH 145*

*Anthem*

*We Read again the Ancient Stories*

*Matthew 2*

*Message*

*“Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy”*

*Pastor Josh*

*Invitation to Holy Communion*

*Prayer of Confession*

*UMH 890*

**Most merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us;  
 that we may delight in your will,  
 and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

Pastor: Family of God, hear the good news, in the name of  
 Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

***All: Glory to God. Amen.***

## *Holy Communion*

*Prayer of Great Thanksgiving*

UMH 13

### *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.

### *\*Giving and Receiving the Bread and Cup*

### *Prayer after Communion*

### *Sending Forth*

Just as our theme carol asks, "What child IS this?" we, too, have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the Body of Christ through our words and deeds.

*\*Sending Hymn: Grace Greater than Our Sins*

UMH 365

*\*Benediction*

*\*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*