

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Communion Sunday | Epiphany Sunday
Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – January 3, 2021 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 60:1-3)

Jen Loring

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of God has risen upon us!

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples,

But God will rise upon us, and God's glory will appear over us.

The light of God is with us;

All the nations' leaders will be drawn to the light of God.

God's light now dwells with us;

Come, worship God, and shine God's light to the world!

Opening Song "We Three Kings" *sung by Anne Murray*

New Testament Reading

Jen Loring

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

Moment of Music "Go Tell It on The Mountain" Mahalia Jackson

Joys and Concerns (*prayer requests can be texted to 978-973-2362*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 *The Message*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,

no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader

who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Message: "Navigating by Starlight"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude & Benediction “Arise Your Light is Come” *(see lyrics from the Pilgrim Hymnal attached if you wish to sing along and please remain until the Benediction Prayer at the end)*

We Three Kings Lyrics

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts 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 for ever, 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, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your
God
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted
ones
and comfort those who
mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the
wing,
God's power will make us
strong.