



Kent United Church of Christ

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION

EPIPHANY

January 4, 2026

10am

BELLS

PRELUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hopkins, arr. Phillip Keveren

GREETING

Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

INTROIT

GLORIA

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hannah Odellscott Prochaska

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

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

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

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

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

The Christ who embodies the Word is among us!

Arise, shine, for the Light has come!

O come, let us worship the Lord,
for God has done wondrous things!

*OPENING HYMN #164

Arise You Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*INVOCATION

Alexis Jackson, liturgist

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Amy

May the GIFT of the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Emily

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Matthew 2:1-12

Here ends the reading from God's word.

Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.

SERMON

Pastor Amy

ANTHEM

A King in Swaddling Clothes
Chancel Choir

Brad Nix

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Amy

HYMN OF COMMITMENT (Insert)

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Alexis Jackson

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Amy

HOLY COMMUNION

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Invitation to the Table

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

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Receiving the Bread and Cup and Star Words

Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup.

After partaking, please draw a star word from the basket.

If you would prefer to be served in the pew, please alert one of our Deacons.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN #159

As With Gladness Those of Old

DIX

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF OUR HOMES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Pastor Amy

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Our help is the name of the Lord:

The maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

From this time forth for evermore.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

African-American Spiritual
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Our service has ended. Now our service begins.
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.
Follow your star!*



Instructions for Blessing the Home on Epiphany:

Using chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 26

Read these words after you chalk the door: The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year.

Then say the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the joy of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.