



Kent United Church of Christ

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

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

10am

PRELUDE

Justin McDaniel, saxophone

GREETING

Rev. Emily Culp Ashby, associate minister for faith formation

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gabe Mothersbaugh

Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with the desire for justice.

Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.

Show us the true gifts we must bring to our moment,
as we seek a better kin-dom on this earth.

We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives.
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #139**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jacey Stewart

Christ of the East,
Christ of the South,
Christ of the West,
Christ of the North:

**We turn our hearts to you
hoping and praying for
peace and life
to dispel the shadows
of war and death.**

We turn our faces to you
trusting and believing for
love and grace
to shine upon us and
to radiate to all.

**We turn our lives to you
even if we know only in part
what we will one day know fully
even as we are fully known.
And now may faith hope and love,
love most of all, abide in us as we journey together through a coming year. Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Adeline Totten

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

A READING FROM MATTHEW 2:1-12

Simon Khan

Here ends the reading from God's word.
Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Piece op. 189
Natalie Roeger, flute

Mel Bonis

SERMON

Drawn to the Light

Jonah Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER

Addy Dunlap

You Light Up My Life!

A CREATION JUSTICE ADVENT/EPIPHANY PROGRAM A WONDERFUL GIFT TO CHURCH MEMBERS

During the Advent season, the Creation Justice Committee (Green Team) is selling stars (\$10 each) that will be on display on Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 2026.

For \$10 you can honor a church or staff member for their service, kindness, uniqueness, etc. In 50 words, or less, explain who you are honoring and why. Add your name or make it anonymous.

All proceeds will go into the Kent UCC Sustainability Fund

The Sustainability Fund needs to grow as it will be used to make upgrades to our church building to make it more environmentally-friendly. (Think: more efficient lighting, HVAC systems, water heaters, landscaping, future solar installations)

- * Forms will be available in the Friday updates, Sunday bulletins, in the church office and in the narthex.
- * Feel free to purchase multiple stars! Not only will you light up your honored person's life, you will be helping in our efforts to become fossil-free!
- * Look for the "You Light Up My Life" display in the narthex with forms, instructions, examples, and a box to deposit your completed applications and money. Your information will be typed onto a gold star that will be part of the Dazzling Display on Epiphany. Your recipient will be able to take their star home at the end of the program.

You Light Up My Life Application

(NAME)

...is a light in my life because:

(50 WORDS OR LESS)

from:

(YOUR NAME OR MAKE IT ANONYMOUS)

Please attach \$10 in cash or a check made out to "Kent UCC" with "You Light Up My Life" in the memo line. Place in the gold box in the narthex or turn in to the office, directly.