



**Second Christian Church of Kittery
North Church of Portsmouth
Worship with Holy Communion for Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2025 - 10:00 AM**

Welcome one and all! Whether you are gathering with us on-site or on-line,
*Remember: No matter who you are, no matter who you love,
no matter where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!*

(* You are invited to stand as you are able)

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

Call to Community †

(Inspired by Sirach 24)

One: Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

***Many: She brings worlds into being and illuminates the night sky
with stars in the heavens.***

Wisdom declares herself and tells of her might in the midst of her people.

She strengthens her children and grants peace to the peoples.

Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

She bestows grace and redemption and makes mystery known. Praise Wisdom!

*** Hymn (see insert)**

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

(Words by Maren Tirabassi)

*** Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy God, all things came into being through you.

You enlighten our lives, yet we are drawn to shadows and veils.

***We distance ourselves from the conditions of oppression and despair around us,
and conceal our halting allegiance to your promised kingdom.***

Ignite in us a hunger and thirst for righteousness, justice, and truth.

Spark compassion in our hearts. Make us a righteous branch in the vineyard.

In the name of Jesus and in the hope of restoration, we pray. Amen,

*** Words of Grace**

*** Gloria**

Hirst/Effenberger

Glory to you, creating One!

Glory to you, redeeming Son!

Glory to you, O Spirit, come!

Meet us now, make us one, glory to you, O God!

The Anthem

God's Love Made Visible!

Brubeck/Brubeck

Our Combined Choirs

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Prayer before the Scripture Reading

J. Mary Luti

*Spirit of the Living God, turn on the light of truth
and wake up our hearts by the Word we now declare and ponder.
In ancient pages let us find fresh life, fresh hope, and fresh courage
for witness in your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen,*

The Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

The Message

"Lighting the Way"

Rev. Brad Hirst

WE RESPOND

We Share our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Jenn Mazur

The Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.*

For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen,

An Invitation to Offering

Special Music

* Response ††

OLD HUNDRETH

*O Light of lights to you we sing! With seeking Magi gifts we bring
in thanks for Love among us come, enfleshed, a child, beloved One!*

* Dedication of Gifts

*God of Light, may these gifts reveal your unending love and extravagant generosity.
We give thanks for the privilege of being in communal and covenantal care
with our neighbors as manifested by the sharing of resources.
With joy, we devote our firstfruits to loving you and all your children. Amen,*

WE GATHER AT THE TABLE

We are Invited

We Remember

We Bless the Gifts

*Come and dwell among us, O Holy One.
In the breaking of bread, be our nourishment and generosity.
In the sharing of the fruit of the vine, be our joy and courage,
and our light on the hard paths homeward.
Sharpen our vision to be the Church you call us to be.
Enflame our hearts for a renewed world of justice and peace,
and make us a true and guiding light to gather all your children together. Amen,*

We Share the Gifts

(M. Tirabassi, alt.)

One: The bread we share is blessed and broken.

The Light of the world is in your hand.

Many: When we share this Light, we will never be hungry.

The fruit of the vine in your hand is blessed and shared
like the overflowing of tears and joy.

When we share this deeply, we will never thirst.

We Give Thanks

***We thank you for your presence among us, O God of light,
in this gathering of your people, and in this sacred meal of loaf and cup.***

***As we have received this gift of sacrifice and love,
may we be transformed into your light and love and life in the world,
shining among all your people. Amen,***

WE GO OUT

* Hymn #151

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

* A Blessing

* Response

Let Your Little Light Shine **

P. Warrick-Smith

Let your little light shine, shine, shine. Let your little light shine, O my Lord.

'Cause there might be someone down in the valley tryin' to get home.

***It might be me or it might be you, it might be a brother or a sister too,
but you know there's someone down in the valley tryin' to get home. So...***

Music for Going Out

† Some of this morning's liturgy is adapted for our use from
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†† by Mary Luti, from *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, © 2024 The United Church of Christ. Permission granted.

Welcome to worship!

You have been greeted this morning by Janet Topolewski and Bert Wooley.

Our Ushers are Ernie and Sharon Wiswell, and Alan Robinson is our Liturgist.

We welcome the Rev. Jenn Mazur and all of our friends from North Church to share worship
with us while their sanctuary is being remodeled for a new season of ministry!

We invite you to please keep your name tag on when you join us downstairs following worship
for a time of refreshment and fellowship!

Second Christian Church of Kittery - UCC

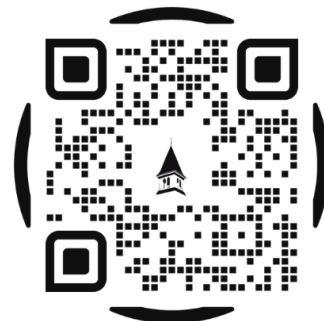
An Open and Affirming Congregation

33 Government St., Kittery, ME 03904

207-439-3903 church@2ccucc.org

Rev. Brad Hirst, Pastor • Mike Effenberger, Music Director • Charles Donnell, Treasurer

Welcoming... Learning... Going Out...



The Week Ahead:

Monday, January 6: ***Epiphany!***
6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

Wednesday, January 8:
10:00am AA
No Choir Rehearsal Tonight!

Thursday, January 9:
2:00pm *In-person Prayer Time*
6:30pm Doorkeepers Meeting
All are welcome!

Friday, January 10:
9:00am Breakfast with Brad at *Kasha's Kitchen*

Saturday, January 11:
9:00am *Hearts and Crafts!*
Evergreen Festival coming up: *November 29, 2025*
11:15am Choir Rehearsal - *Special day and time!*

Sunday, January 12: ***The Baptism of Jesus***
10:00am *Second Sunday Jazz Worship*
with Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Rev. Jenn Mazur, preaching

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “*Thank You*” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. UCC congregations and members like you have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by servants of the church who are facing a time of need. We’ll be receiving your gifts for *The Christmas Fund* through the month of January. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

Refrain:

*O... star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Gold for a king on Bethlehem's plain,
frankincense to honor his reign,
Myrrh for sorrow's dark tomorrows,
Child of both joy and pain.
[Refrain]*

*Still, we come the Christ child to praise.
Gifts we bring and voices we raise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope of all nights and days!
[Refrain]*

KINGS OF ORIENT
WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr. 1857,
Adapted, Maren Tirabassi, 2024.
MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr. 1857

** Let Your Little Light Shine
Words and music by Pamela Warrick-Smith,
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The First Noel

*The first Noel, the angel did say;
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:
[Refrain]*

*And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:
[Refrain]*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
[Refrain]*

*Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
[Refrain]*

THE FIRST NOEL
WORDS: Traditional English Carol (17th century)
MUSIC: Traditional English melody;
desc. Healy Williams, 1926
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