



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 2, 2022
Epiphany

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Music streamed in today's service

Best and Brightest - Lani Smith
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
What Child is This? arr. Sally Deford
Go Tell It On the Mountain - NCH #154**
Sing We Now of Christmas - Douglas Wagner

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Today's service will be recorded.

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*Unclench your fists
Hold out your hands.
Take mine.
Let us hold each other.
Thus is God's Glory
Manifest.*

--Madeleine L'Engle

Prelude

Best and Brightest - Lani Smith

Dot Bowe

Greeting

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

Passing of the Peace

Susan Carabbio

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Call to Worship (inspired by Isaiah 60)

Susan Carabbio

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

All: And the glory of our God has risen upon us!

One: God has pity on the weak and the needy,

All: God redeems their life from oppression and violence.

One: Precious in God's sight are the widows, widowers, and orphans of war.

All: Precious in God's sight are the addicted and confused.

One: Precious in God's sight are the abused and neglected.

All: Precious in God's sight are the poor and desperate.

One: Precious in God's sight are all who sit on the margins.

All: Precious in God's sight are all who long for justice.

One: The glory of our God will rise upon them.

All: The glory of our God will rise upon us all.

Unison Prayer

Susan Carabbio

**Radiant Morning Star,
you are both guidance and mystery,
Visit our rest with disturbing dreams,
and our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality
to open our hearts and homes
to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Matthew 2:1-18

Susan Carabbio

1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

13Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

One: Here end the readings. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Sarah Jane Fuller

Star Words for 2022

Prayers of the People

Rev. Reebee Girash

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Reebee Girash

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Service of Communion

*Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate.
The sacrament is a gift from God, and all are welcome to receive it.*

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, in your light we see light. And so too we see the veils of our ignorance and pride, the ways we treat ourselves and others without your mercy, love or justice. Let the brightness of your morning burn through our fog of aimlessness and sin and put a new song in our hearts. Teach us to see your world illumined anew, as with the eyes of Jesus. We pray with his words, saying,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Reebee Girash

Offertory

What Child is This? arr. Sally Deford

Lisa Boehm and Robin Mailhot

* Doxology - #515 Red

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

or

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Reebee Girash

**Bright Morning Star,
your light has come,
and the birth of Jesus
has overwhelmed us with joy.
Like the magi of long ago,
may we be drawn to you
and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.**

* Closing Hymn

Go Tell It On the Mountain - NCH #154

* Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas - Douglas Wagner

Dot Bowe

A special thank you to **Susan Carabbio** for being our liturgist today, to **Lisa Boehm** and **Robin Mailhot** for sharing their music gifts with us, and to **Jeff Boehm** for hosting our Zoom service.

Source Notes:

The Call to Worship is adapted from Jeffrey Nelson in Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Dedication are from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers. The Prayer of Confession is from First Church in Cambridge, UCC.

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am