

WORSHIP SERVICE
JANUARY 5, 2025, 10:00AM
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

PRELUDE

*HYMN #162

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins

Verses 1, 2, and 5

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us;

People: Authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually,

Leader: And there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and His kingdom.

All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy; it may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to sing and dance to a different tune; it may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration; but You have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our

darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy You offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Leader: The prophets of old have declared, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God.

People: For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robes of righteousness.”

Leader: Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

Children ages Pre-K- Grade 3 recess to Smith Hall to meet your teachers for the Chapel service. Grades 4-7 remain in the Meeting House.

*HYMN #166

God, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

James Quinn

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-16 [Matthew 5:14-16]

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Seeking Direction”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Worthy is the Lamb

Darlene Zschech

Khanisha Moore, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and
The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE
Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Gordon Young

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**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

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

(We eat the bread as we receive it. We drink the cup together.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Meditations of My Heart

Elaine Hagenberg

*HYMN #174

Amen, Amen

Verses 1, 2, and 6

Spiritual

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to Dave and Terri Leopold for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign is underway! We are focused on the importance of gratitude in inspiring our generosity. We ask that you take a moment to complete the statement “I am grateful” and reflect on how that gratitude might inspire your offering to God through our church by pledging to the very best of your ability. You may pledge using the pledge cards found in your pew or by utilizing the QR code on the back of your bulletin.

CHAPEL SUNDAY

Today we will offer a Chapel service for children through grade 3. Grades 4-7 will remain in the Meeting House for communion. Pick up in classroom as usual following the service.

DEDICATE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

FULFILLING 2024 PLEDGES

We are grateful for your generous pledges, which are essential to the operation of our church. There is still time to fulfill your 2024 pledge! We encourage those who are able to stay current on their pledge commitment so that we may be best prepared for 2025.

JANUARY PLATE OFFERING

The January plate offering will go directly to the fundraising effort for the YG Mission Trip to Waco, Texas.

PACIFIC HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month (every third Thursday), our church provides and serves dinner at the Pacific House Homeless Shelter in Stamford. Volunteers are needed to both contribute food items and serve a hot meal to approximately 60 men residing at the shelter. Contact Andy Parkin at andyparkin7@gmail.com for details on how to help.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – TONIGHT!

We will offer a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of each month, October through May, in the Chapel from 6:00 to 6:45pm. We invite you to join us and share this offering with anyone you think might be interested.

WINTER/SPRING CLEMENTINE'S PLAYDATES REGISTRATION

We will soon be opening our registration for the winter/spring semester of Clementine's Playdates. Clementine's Playdates is a caregiver and child programming opportunity for infants through age 3. Children and caregivers will enjoy time for socialization, play, music and the introduction of early concepts of faith. The semester will run from February 5 through May 21 (no class 2/19 & 4/16, possible snow day make up on 5/28). Sessions will be offered on Wednesdays from 9:15-10:15am. Registration will begin on Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00am. This program is free for pledging church members. Please email churchschool@godsacre.org with any questions.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PACKING EVENT – JANUARY 21

Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to help Filling in the Blanks. **On Tuesday, January 21 from 1:00-3:00pm**, we will meet at the FITB warehouse in Norwalk and help pack backpacks for the food insecure in our area. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lesley Cousley at lacousley@gmail.com to register or with questions. Advance registration through the Filling in the Blanks website is required.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SING OR RING IN A CHOIR

Start the New Year in a Church Choir!

Chancel Choir (high school through adults) resumes Thursday, January 2, 7:30–9:00pm

Joyful Ringers (high school through adults) resumes Thursday, January 9, 6:30–7:15pm

Spirit Singers (grades 2-3) resumes Tuesday, January 14; 3:30– 4:30pm

Cherubs (ages 4 -grade 1) resumes Thursday, January 16; 3:30– 4:00pm

Joyful Noise (grades 4-5) resumes Thursday, January 16; 4:00– 5:00pm

Youth Worship Teams (grades 6-12) rehearse as youth schedules allow

For more information, please contact Nerva Altino at

nerva@godsacre.org or Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

YOUTH THIS WEEK

We are excited for another full year of programming! For questions about our ministries, contact Kimmie Dyrvik at kimmie@godsacre.org.

Sunday, January 5

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), grades 6-8,

Team Reveal, 4:00-5:30pm

Quest, grades 9-12, Contemporary Worship, 6:00-7:00pm

Youth Group (YG), grades 9-12, Faces of Homelessness, 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday, January 9

Youth Worship, grades K-12 welcome, 6:30-8:00pm,

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Paul Byssainthe Jr.

Guest Organist

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Trey Laird

We are a welcoming, inclusive and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your pledge today.

