



The Feast of the Epiphany (Observed) • Second Sunday after Christmas

“If I have seen a little further, then it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

*Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.*

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

## Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 72

People: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

People: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

Leader: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

**People:** From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Hymn 126 (p. 5)

*Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning*

Morning Star

## Prayer of Invocation

## Gloria (Unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

# Anthem

“Say, Where Is He Born, the King of Judea”  
and “Behold a Star from Jacob Shining”  
(both from *Christus*, an unfinished oratorio)

Felix Mendelssohn

## Children's Moment

Have you ever looked for something not knowing what it actually looked like? That's what naturalists and explorers have often done. Somebody, somewhere heard about

something incredible, and off went those explorers to find that special something. This is what the Magi did. These seekers wanted to find a newborn king, and so they traveled from far away to see baby Jesus in person. What they found was amazing, and it changed them. I hope that you are drawn to seek out God, that you will not feel alone as you look, and that you find this quest to be a fulfilling and wondrous adventure.

**Hymn 144** (p. 6)      *What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright*      Puer Nobis Nascitur

### Scripture Lessons

**Isaiah 60:1-6.** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Matthew 2:1-12.** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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." <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Sermon**

*"Star Turn"*

Stephen R. Silver

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

*As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.*

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, James, Jimmy, Jean, Michelle, and Stephanie.

O Holy One, we come to you like those long-ago travelers, asking questions, seeking enlightenment. We, too, wish to look for you with open hearts and minds, willing to find you wherever you may be. Help us to be faithful in looking at and seeing all of Creation, and let us not be distracted by the charms of this world, its priorities, or its false paths. Let us be ready, let us be willing to find you, to see what you have done and are doing, in this world, for all of your people.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, our Savior. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Our Father, 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.

## Offering of Gifts

*Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community.*

## Offertory

*The Little Road to Bethlehem*

Michael Head

## Doxology (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Dear God, like the Magi, we come from various places with different experiences, but we are all seeking you. Take our gifts as a sign of our interest in you, and let each of us feel deep gratitude and a commitment to serve your people, whoever, wherever they may be. In the name of our newborn king, we pray, Amen.

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.*

## Invitation and Communion Prayer

### Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

#### Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 143 (p. 7)      *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Kings of Orient

### Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

### Postlude

*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

Johann Pachelbel

\* \* \*

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Chris Chase, Liturgist

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Mezzo-Soprano

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*If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

# 126 Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.  
James (John) P. Harding, ?-1911

1 Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
3 Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion;  
5 Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing,

Dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
O - dors of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
Dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid!  
Mak - er, and Mon - arch, and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid! A - men.

# What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

144

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

Tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly  
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob  
 3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us  
 4 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, To Christ, re -

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born  
 shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges  
 on to seek thy face, Let not our sloth - ful hearts re -  
 vealed in earth - ly night, To God the Ho - ly Ghost we

king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.  
 stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.  
 fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.  
 raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.

## We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. with Refrain  
John H. Hopkins, Jr.; 1820-1891

In unison



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse 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, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on 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.





## UCC Opportunities for Supporting Tornado Relief Efforts

The devastating tornadoes that hit Kentucky and other states in December require a massive recovery effort. The NH Conference of the UCC has suggested two ways to support this effort:

**Give directly to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference** and its Disaster Preparedness and Ministry Response Team, with an online debit- or credit-card donation at [ikcucc.org/connect/donate](http://ikcucc.org/connect/donate).

**Give through the NH Conference** either by mailing a check to the NHC office in Pembroke (memo "Kentucky Tornado Recovery") or online at [nhcucc.org/donate-now](http://nhcucc.org/donate-now).



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Upcoming Concerts

*Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

### ***Cameo Baroque Concert for 19 Days of the Valley—Saturday, January 15, at 3:00***

As their annual effort in the Upper Valley Haven's "19 Days of the Valley" campaign, Ernie Drown and friends offer a program featuring G. F. Handel, Henry Purcell, G. P. Telemann, William Boyce, and others. *Free-will donation; more at [cameoarts.org](http://cameoarts.org) and [uppervalleyhaven.org](http://uppervalleyhaven.org).*

### ***The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, February 11 and 25, all 7:30***

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available. And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *For more details, visit [anoncoffee.org](http://anoncoffee.org).*

## Giving From the Heart *Stewardship 2022*

**"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."** (Mark 12:43-44)

Many thanks for the 30 pledges we have already received for 2022! As you prayerfully consider a commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year, we will gratefully continue to accept pledges anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of our church!

*Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail. If you'd like to use envelopes for 2022, you may pick up your boxed set (#1-25) in the Parish Hall.*

## ***Please Note: CONTENT FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 10***

Materials for FCC's 2021 Annual Report must be submitted to the Church Administrator by January 10, in order to ensure timely distribution of the report prior to our Annual Meeting.

***The 2022 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 13, 2022***





**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

PO Box 230

10 South Park St

Lebanon NH 03766

**Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!**

*DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly*

***Do you use email? Contact [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) to receive this and other communication by email.***

***Welcome!***

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

***Join us as we grow together in God's love.***

**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Children's Community Corner  
Barbara Teeter, Chair of Deacons • Linda Jacobs, Chair of Church Council • Barbara Jones, Moderator  
Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

*Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)*  
**603-448-4281 • [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**