

**The Church of the Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, January 6, 2019  
10:00am**

**Epiphany**



**Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR  
Jenny Healy, WORSHIP LEADER  
Kelley DePasqua, MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Michael Eaton, ORGANIST  
Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED**

# Order of Worship

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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## Prelude

*Miss Hamilton* by Cornelius Lyons  
Performed by The Lindsays

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Let us kneel in the darkness,

Until we see God's light emerge.

**Let us wait with hope filled hearts,**

**As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.**

Let him speak to us and teach us love,

Until we open our hearts to be his home.

\*Hymn No. 162

We Three Kings of Orient Are

### \*Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious and all loving God,

you call to us across deep waters and dark places.

Yours is the light which guides us

and the voice which we follow.

We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you.

May those without hope be encouraged;

those who are sad, cheered;

those who are seeking, find you;

and may all things be according to your will.

In the name of your beloved Son we pray. 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

\* **Gloria Patri** No. 36 (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. Amen.

**Anthem**

The Rising of the Moon

Traditional Irish; Lyrics by Sean Tyrrell

Stephen and Susan Lindsay, Guitar, Flute and Vocals

COTP Choir and Congregation invited to join in on the **REFRAIN**.

As we wander through the universe, on this dark winter's night,  
The children they're all dancing and the stars are shining bright,  
One more word must now be spoken out, or sung to an old tune,  
Let's dance the dance of freedom at the rising of the moon.

**At the rising of the moon, at the rising of the moon,  
Let's dance the dance of freedom at the rising of the moon.**

As we gaze unto the stars that shine with wonder in our eyes,  
Will we just destroy the planet, or is peace to be the prize?  
Cause the wall of fighting nations dims the beauty of the tune,  
Let's dance the dance of freedom at the rising of the moon.

**At the rising of the moon, at the rising of the moon,  
Let's dance the dance of freedom at the rising of the moon.**

May the wisdom of the ancients with their messages and signs,  
Come to shine on our tomorrows with the magic of their time,  
Like the star that shone on the wise men, like the dawn that's coming soon,  
It's the truth that guides us onwards at the rising of the moon.

**At the rising of the moon, at the rising of the moon,  
It's the truth that guides us onwards at the rising of the moon.**

We can live within God's garden if we tend her with our care,  
We can understand the meaning and the motives of the fair,  
Though we stumble through the darkness, trying far too much too soon,  
Let's stand up and be counted at the rising of the moon.

**At the rising of the moon, at the rising of the moon,  
Let's stand up and be counted at the rising of the moon.**

**At the rising of the moon, at the rising of the moon,  
Let's be friends this new year coming at the rising of the moon.**

## **Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response**

#### **Scripture Lessons**

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, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

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<sup>u</sup> my people Israel."™  
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>u</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**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.

**Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

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.

**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.**

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.**

**Reflection**

*The Sacred Throng*

Rev. Helen Nablo

## **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

19th Century English Carol Ar. Keith Christopher

Susan Lindsay, Flute

God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy, joy, joy!

In Bethlehem, in Israel  
The blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy, joy, joy!

From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by Name  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy, joy, joy!

**\*Epiphany Doxology** (*please note word changes*)

To God, all glorious heavenly light  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication** (*responsively*)

Loving God,  
We offer you our gold:  
The morning on the wing  
The glow on the faces of children at play  
The shining moments that brighten our lives.

**We offer you our frankincense:**

**The quiet reassurance of familiar things**

**The grace of care and friendship**

**The blessing of bread and our heart's yearning in prayer.**

We offer you our myrrh:  
The ashes of our dreams  
The bitter taste of our failures  
The shadows through which we stumble.

**Transform our inadequate gifts,  
that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise,  
and transform our lives  
to reflect more deeply your justice and joy  
In the life of the world.**

### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

*This morning we will come forward to receive communion by intinction. Dip a piece of bread into the cup, and return to your seats by the side aisles. The choir will be served first. Gluten free bread is found in the plastic cup. Our cup is grape juice. All are welcome at Jesus table.*

### **Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer After Communion**

\*Hymn No. 366      We Are Walking (marching, singing, praying)

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**                      Irish Reels, Traditional

The Man of the House/The Corner House/The Woman of the House

*During the Postlude you may remain seated, or proceed to greet the pastor and go to coffee hour.*

*The Deacon in Charge is Laurie McCoy.*

*The Ushers are Linda & Frank Montague and Joanna & Dennis Albers.*

## NOTES

**Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage.** We hope you enjoy the worship service and our celebration of Epiphany today. Please join us for coffee hour downstairs in Allerton Hall. We encourage visitors to sign the “friendship register”, or fill out a pew card, so we can send you a copy of our Newsletter.

**Please silence your cell phones** so we can be fully present to the spirit and to one another.

**This morning we have nursery/cribroom care** with Kristin Moses, our childcare worker. Kristin is with us every Sunday.

**Copies of the morning sermon** are available on the marble table in the upper vestibule, just outside the sanctuary back doors.

**Confirmation Class** meets immediately following worship today in the Marks conference room.

**Next Sunday is Confirmation Sunday!** Please join us for this important day in our church!!

**MLK Weekend is coming soon!** Sunday night, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Coffee house “Standing on the Side of Love” sponsored by Plymouth No Place For Hate, 7-10 pm in Allerton Hall. Monday January 21<sup>st</sup> is the annual Day of Service held at the Spire. 9:00am. Gather for an all ages service project, with closing commissioning. Followed by 10:30 am worship service at Bethel AME church.

**Are you currently reading the book *The First Thanksgiving?*** There will be a book discussion held at Helen and Mike’s house on Thursday night, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. All are welcome!

**A Book Study Group** is starting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We are going to study *The Heart of Centering Prayer* by Cynthia Bourgeault. It is limited to 8 people on a first come basis. For more information call Rose Wagner at 774-773-9361.

**SAVE THE DATE - Leadership Retreat, Saturday January 26** at the JRC. 9:30 am to 1 pm, includes lunch. All committee members and interested parties are welcome. A time for reflection, fellowship, celebration...a time to begin the new year.

**Youth/Adult Maine Mission Trip** - Save the date, June 23 - June 29th. Please sign up with Jim Hammond or Jenny Healy this Sunday or email Jim at [james.gonfishin@gmail.com](mailto:james.gonfishin@gmail.com) so we can start to make plans. We will hold an informational meeting and formal sign up in January. We would need to have 4 adults also and this is a great opportunity to give back to an area that needs help.

**Daily Devotional:** Are you interested in ordering the 2019 Upper Room Daily Devotional booklets for yourself or a friend? Because we have multiple copies sent to the church, the cost is only \$7 for the year. Please sign up on the clipboard on the marble table or contact Nancy Sweeney at [nsweeneyj@aol.com](mailto:nsweeneyj@aol.com) or 774-404-7961 by January 13.

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR-**

Mon, Jan 7: Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

Tue, Jan 8: Church Council, 7pm, Marks Room. Men's Bible Study, 7pm at Cotta Residence (3 Fuller Way-Plymouth).

Wednesday, Jan 9: Bible Study, 10:30 am at Amy Simpsons home, 5 Sunrise Ave. 7:30 pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Thur, Jan 10: Deadline for the February Herald.

Sun, Jan 13: Confirmation Celebration with special coffee hour.

# Texas Mission Trip

We still have room for those interested in joining our mission trip to Texas to help with the UCC hurricane recovery project in Port Arthur, Texas. The deadline to let us know if you are interested is January 13<sup>th</sup>.

We will be working on finishing some low-income housing units which were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey last year. The housing units were initially built by a non-profit Community Development Corp. set up by local churches.

We will depart Boston on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and return on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the flight is about \$385 and most other costs (housing, transportation, meals) will be covered by the UCC and your Mission Committee. Your total costs should be under \$500.

We will be staying in a UCC mission house with A/C and WiFi. The work day will be from 8:00 to 4:00 each day with one ½ day off for sightseeing. The weather will be in the upper 70s during the day and mid 60s at night.

No previous experience is required and all skill levels are welcome. There is something to do for everyone.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who have always thought of going on a mission trip but were uncertain due to costs, location or required experience.

If you want to make a significant difference in the lives of others and support the UCC and Church of the Pilgrimage outreach efforts, please contact Richard Rinker at [rmrinker@comcast.net](mailto:rmrinker@comcast.net) or let Pastor Helen know that you are interested.

We are looking forward to having you join over a dozen of your friends who have already signed up for this adventure.

# NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Business Meeting will be held on January 27, 2019, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To approve, subject to amendment, the 2019 Budget of the Church.
2. To vote on a proposed Easement between the First Parish Church and The Church of the Pilgrimage.
3. To vote on proposed Bylaw amendments providing for, under extraordinary circumstances, the election of a person to serve a third successive term in an office, board, or committee which ordinarily allows only two successive terms.
4. To vote on a proposed Bylaw amendment which limits individuals to serving only two successive terms on the Membership and Evangelism Committee ordinarily, instead of unlimited successive terms as at present.
5. To vote on proposed Bylaw amendments allowing the Church Council to appoint Alternate United Church of Christ Delegates to represent the Church at specific UCC meetings when elected UCC Delegates cannot attend.
6. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereto.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post

Clerk



*As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

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