

*COMMUNION (found in insert)

*SONG "Christ for the World We Sing" (found in insert)

BENEDICTION

SUNG "Amen" (feel free to clap along!)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Julie Dietel January 4th

Teresa Sontag January 17th

Donald Dobeck III January 24th

Shelly O'Toole January 13th

Sarah Irvine January 23rd

Justin Newton January 24th

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to:

Carolyn & Tom Ryan January 9th

Lift Up: Service Prayers for Epiphany Year A was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howards who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast. Michael's work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God's dwelling among us.

*For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.
Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.*

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

109 Haskell Avenue Clinton, Massachusetts 01510

Website: clintonunitedchurch.org E:Mail: Uccclintonma@gmail.com

rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com

The United Church of Clinton



January 4, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Bob Lidstone

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Epiphany Sunday/Communion Sunday

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING *of the BELL/TIME of CENTER*

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Leader: Rise and Shine—the Light is revealed.

People: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.

Leader: From the sea comes abundance, from the desert comes hope;

People: all creation moves toward joy.

***SONG of PRAISE *and* SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(found in insert)

PRAYER *of the DAY

Radiant and Revealing God, you dwell not in temples or thrones but among us— in caravans of mercy, in the faces of those returning home, in the shimmering abundance of the sea. You are the star that stirs our seeking, the Presence that refuses to be hidden, the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike. As we gather, let your justice take root in our hearts, your joy rise on our lips, your compassion steady our hands, and your peace settle upon this world you so dearly love. Lift our eyes, O Holy One, also that we may see as you see—creation radiant, humanity restored, and your dwelling now among us. Amen.

***AFFIRMING *and* CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: "Peace be with You"**

Twice.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

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. (*Be seated*)

Moment for All God's Children

Lord's Prayer 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 and ever. Amen.

***SONG "We Three Kings"**

#172

SCRIPTURE John 1: 1-10 (Common English Version)

PRAYER *of* TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE

When your radiance invites us to lift our eyes, we close them against the pain of the world. When your abundance flows like the sea, we grasp rather than share. When your caravans of mercy draw near, we hesitate to join the journey. Forgive us, O God. Lift us once more into your light of love. Transform the fear that keeps us small into courage that acts with compassion. Renew the weariness that dims our hope into joy that moves us toward peace. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1-12 (Common English Version)

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

MUSICAL MEDITATION

INVITATION *to* GENEROSITY

Passing of the Plate

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost).

Amen

PRAYER *of* THANKSGIVING *and* DEDICATION

Holy One, receive the gifts we share. Turn them toward compassion, stretch them toward peace, and let your joy be known through all we do.

1st Scripture Reading John 1: 1-10 (Common English Version)

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. 2 The Word was God in the beginning. 3 Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being 4 through the Word was life, [a] and the life was the light for all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. 6 A man named John was sent from God. 7 He came to witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. 8 He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. 9 The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. 10 The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.

2nd Scripture Reading Matthew 2: 1-12 (Common English Version)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. 2 They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. 4 He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ child was to be born. 5 They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: 5 *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means you are least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them when the star had first appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." 9 When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. 11 They entered the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother. Falling on their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

***SONG**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

**1. In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.**

**2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when Christ comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**3. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.**

**4. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
but what I can I offer:
All my heart.**

Communion

***SONG "One Bread, One Body"**

#393

Words of Institution

Jesus gathered his disciples together on his last night. He made room at the table for those who loved him, those who questioned him, those who followed him, and for the one who would betray him. As witnesses to his teachings, his earthly struggles, and his prophetic justice shifting ministry, they came.

As they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, then gave it to them. In the same manner, following their meal, Jesus took the cup and blessed it and poured it out for each one of them and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant given for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins." "As often, then, as you eat this bread and drink this cup, do so in memory of me."

Come now, open to Peace within. All are welcome at Christ's table. We gather to renew our spirits with this sacred meal, and offer a place at the table for all.

(Sharing of Meal)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your radical ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen.

Please go to the next page for our final hymn "Christ for the World we sing"

***Song**

"Christ for the World We Sing"

**1. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.**

**2. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.**

**3. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.**

**4. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.**

