

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

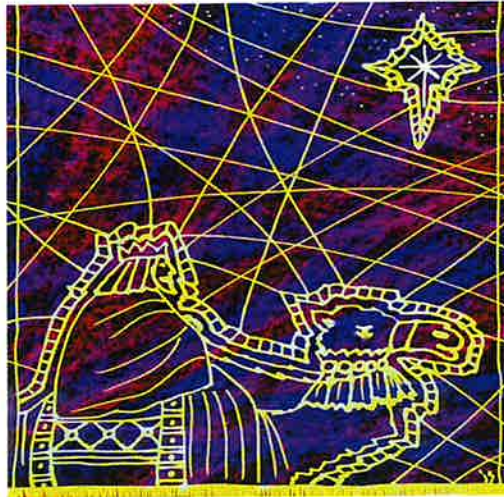
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."

January 12, 2025

10:30am

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John Stuart

We believe God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ.

Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.

In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.

We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!

Coming...

Musical Prelude

Experience by L. Einaudi

Brian Gionet

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing

NCH # 42 v1

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!**

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: The new light is rising.

All: We shall see and be radiant.

One: The new day is dawning.

All: A season of hope is upon us.

One: The light shines upon you.

All: God is our joy and our strength.

One: Today is the new day

All: God is with us. Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence!

***Opening Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

NCH #1

***Opening Prayer**

God of all nations, peoples and cultures, this is the day you have made bright with your light and your love. Guide us in new ways of being. Let kindness, mercy, and compassion guide our relationship with neighbors and strangers. May peace flourish where that has been hatred and division. May hope shine upon us like a star in the distance; as the light from the face of the Christ child. Let your light shine across the whole world, that all peoples may praise you in their own language and enrich your Church with their own gifts. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our savior. Amen.

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH #172 v 1, 2, 4

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi 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 in the east, 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.

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Our Sermon | The Death and Life of King Herod | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Anthem | Blessings by David Lanz | Our Choir |
| Pastoral Prayer | | |

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory and Love Offering

- *Doxology** Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH #780*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication & Consecration**

Going...

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| *Closing Hymn | All Things Bright and Beautiful | NCH #31 |
| *Benediction | | |
| Postlude | comptine d'un autre été by Yann Tiersan | Brian Gionet |

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Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Paul Raymond
Shirley Fong's mom Mary
Deana's sister and brother-in-law,
Linda and Jim Sutton
Kay Shute
Julie Lewis's cousin Alicia
David Leonard's sister Lucinda
Nancy Davis's son George
Barbara Naddaff's daughter Nancy
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel
Molly and Family
Joan Zink's daughter Jen
Christa Brown
Tom Killilea's brother Jim
Bobbie Killilea's sister Karla
Carpenter Family
Claire Simas, niece Janice and
daughter Marianne
Chris Stahlinski's sisters
Brian Gionet's Dad
Roberta Low
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and
Ginger's son Jim
Jean Bastos
Barbara Garland

Mother Earth!

CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Adopted February 2017:

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that *all are welcome, all are loved*. We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

Lucy Damiani donated today's altar flowers in memory of husband, Rollie.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

January 12 Worship-Love Offering

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | Sally Willard |
| Greeter: | Jan McSheffrey |
| Flowers: | Lucy Damiani |
| Collector: | Marge Zamanian |
| Nursery: | |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Andie Joseph |
| Baker: | Donna Flecchia |

January 19 Worship – Band Sunday

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Lucy Damiani |
| Head Usher: | Dick Butler |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Flowers: | Bobbie Killilea |
| Collector: | Dick Butler |
| Nursery: | |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Andie Joseph |
| Bakers: | Marcia Rich
Karen Butler |

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

Join Pastor Andrew on Wednesdays, 2-3pm in the conference room and on Zoom livestream. All welcome!

SUNDAY MORNING ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for our Sunday Morning Worship, the signup sheet and forms are located in the hallway bulletin board.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Look what's coming up in Sunday School

January 12 Sunday School and lessons on MLK

January 19 All ages worship, Sunday School in church for the entire service, it's Band Sunday.

January 26 Science Sunday

March 23rd we will head over to the Boys and Girls Club for a swim! More info will be coming!

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Join us for our 292nd Annual Meeting. After worship we will have a light lunch in Sewall Hall and then return to the sanctuary for the meeting which will also be on Zoom. There will be a signup sheet at coffee hour for food items. We also need childcare downstairs in Skelton Hall during the meeting. It will be Zoom livestreamed so you can still vote while providing childcare.

DEACONS NEWS!

During coffee hours we are trying to keep the kiddos from running too much since we do have a few older folk attending. We are trying to come up with ideas, whether it's coloring or an activity to keep all happy. Suggestions are helpful.

Also, Andrew would like to have others participate in the Children of God Time. If this is something you would like to do on Sunday morning, please contact Andrew directly.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

172

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:15

1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear your call,

Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude.

Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1887
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Unison
Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Last time, end

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

to Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain
English melody
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915