

SERVICE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY



Star of Bethlehem by Hannah Garrity

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1800 FAIRFAX BLVD.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 5, 2025

10:00 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

GATHERING SONG

The First Nowell

NO. 147, vs. 1, 2, 3

All sing refrains

v. 1 – all sing

v. 2 – high voices

v. 3 – low voices

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Moore (she/her), liturgist

One: May the light of God's love push back the darkness.

ALL: WE COME TO THE LIGHT FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH, FROM THE NORTH, FROM THE SOUTH, FROM THE EAST, AND FROM THE WEST.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

ALL: WE COME FROM MANY NATIONS AND MANY CULTURES.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

ALL: WE COME SEEKING THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES US TO LIFE.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

ALL: LET US LIFT UP OUR MANY VOICES AND PRAISE THE GOD OF ALL PEOPLE.

One: Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose Epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

ALL: AMEN.

*HYMN NO. 300

We Are One in the Spirit

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: GOD OF THE BETHLEHEM STAR, EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR YOUR LIGHT SHINING IN THE FACE OF CHRIST. THE MAGI SOUGHT CHRIST SIMPLY TO WORSHIP HIM. BUT HEROD SOUGHT HIM TO APPEASE HIS JEALOUS ANGER.

(cont'd)

WE CONFESS THAT OUR MOTIVES IN SEEKING JESUS ARE NOT PURE. WE DO NOT COME SIMPLY TO WORSHIP: WE COME TO CHRIST, ASKING HIS BENEFITS OF REASSURANCE, HEALTH, WEALTH; ASKING HIM TO FULFILL THE HUNDRED PETITIONS FOR NOT-SO- IMPORTANT REQUESTS THAT WE HEAP BEFORE HIM. BUT THE MAGI SOUGHT FIRST THE KINGDOM.

HELP US, GOD, TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE, PUTTING OUR OWN NEED IN PERSPECTIVE, WORSHIPING THE CHRIST IN LOVE, CONTENT TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE, AND LAYING OUR GIFTS BEFORE YOU. THEN MAY WE JOURNEY, TRUSTING THAT YOUR GOODNESS AND LIGHT WILL ACCOMPANY US ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE. AMEN.

[Time of silent prayer]

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***RESPONSE** (all sing)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

NO. 132, v. 2

**GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE WITH HEART AND SOUL AND VOICE;
NOW YE HEAR OF ENDLESS BLISS: JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN FOR THIS!
HE HAS OPENED HEAVEN'S DOOR, AND WE ARE BLEST FOREVERMORE.
CHRIST WAS BORN FOR THIS! CHRIST WAS BORN FOR THIS!**

***SHARING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

[Turn to those around you and share with them words and signs of peace.]

WONDERING TIME

Christina Pressley (she/her)

[Following Wondering Time, children leave to attend J.A.M. in the Sunday School hallway.]

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ALL: GOD OF EPIPHANY, WE LONG TO HEAR YOUR HOLY WORD IN FRESH WAYS.
OPEN OUR EARS TO THE CALL OF YOUR VOICE. OPEN OUR EYES TO THE
DAWNING OF A NEW DAY. FILL US WITH ANTICIPATION FOR YOUR FUTURE.
AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9 (NRSV)

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

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

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

*REAFFIRMING OUR FAITH AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR

One: In baptism Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light so that we may shine as lights for Christ in the world today. Brothers and sisters:
Will you continue to receive the light of Christ and grow into friendship with him as he comes to you in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in prayer, and in the fellowship of his Church?

ALL: WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL

One: Will you continue to walk in the light of Christ, seeking to follow him at home and at work, in rest and in activity?

ALL: WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL

One: Will you continue to reflect the light of Christ to those around you by serving those in need, making him known in your communities, and working for justice, peace and the good of all creation?

ALL: WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL

One: You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

ALL: WE WILL SHINE AS LIGHTS FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

One: May God, who in baptism has enlightened you with grace, and continually give you the strength to take the Good News of Jesus' love for all people.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

[This morning we receive the offering for the Deacons' Fund. Your contributions provide immediate assistance to individuals in our community in financial crisis – real people, real needs, real help. Any loose offering and designated checks go toward this fund. Let us give with grateful hearts.]

OFFERTORY

Star Carol
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Refrain: See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer:
'Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us. Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!'
(Refrain)

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.
(Refrain)

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Congregation joins final refrain:

**SEE HIS STAR SHINING BRIGHT IN THE SKY THIS CHRISTMAS NIGHT!
FOLLOW ME JOYFULLY; HURRY TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE THE SON OF MARY!**

*RESPONSE (all sing) *We Three Kings of Orient Are* NO. 151, v. 2
**BORN A KING ON BETHLEHEM'S PLAIN, GOLD I BRING TO CROWN HIM AGAIN,
KING FOREVER, CEASING NEVER OVER US ALL TO REIGN.**

Refrain: **O STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT,
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT,
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL PROCEEDING,
GUIDE US TO THY PERFECT LIGHT!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shing* NO. 192

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

[Please remain for a meeting of the congregation.]

Welcome visitors! We're glad you're here today. If you'd like to learn more about what's happening at Concord, how you can get involved, or how we can help or support you, fill out one of the Connection Cards in the pew with your contact information. You can place the card in the offering or give it to a greeter as you leave. The peace of Christ be with you.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for today following worship to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers for the coming term:

- **Elders, Class of 2027:** Sharon Brucker, Dottie Lund, Nancy Tucker
- **Deacon, Class of 2026:** Felleng Kalema
- **Deacons, Class of 2027:** Renee Leeson-Fuchs, A.T. Moffett, Jan Moore

If elected, Session will be:

2025	2026	2027
John Barineau	Liane Gehret	Sharon Brucker
Jenny Godowsky	Carol Haas	Dottie Lund
Marj Johnson	Don Potter	Nancy Tucker

If elected, Board of Deacons will be:

2025	2026	2027
Peggy Carter	Felleng Kalema	Renee Leeson-Fuchs
Chip Hazel	Nancy Tieste	A.T. Moffett
	Bonnie Twilley	Jan Moore

J.A.M. Session



(Jesus and Me!)

After Wondering Time, children in grades K-5 are invited to follow the J.A.M. leaders to the Sunday School hallway for the creative response to God’s word (Art, Games, Video, Mission Project). Parents are invited to accompany their child or remain in worship. After worship, parents should pick up their child from J.A.M. after checking in with the J.A.M. leader.

About today's bulletin cover: *Star of Bethlehem* by Hannah Garrity (inspired by Matthew 2:1-12). Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas. © a sanctified art/ sanctifiedart.org: *"They come from afar. I imagine the Magi as queens of wisdom, wealth, and power, bringing their entourage, a vast number of people, to care for them. They protect the Magi on their journey over the dunes and around the twists and turns, ensuring they arrive safely.*

They come to pay homage to the baby, the holy child. In this Words for the Beginning series, I began each painting with a circular energy. There is a central focus to each design. Each painting has an original quilt square pattern which repeats as the border. The center design is a different iteration of the same idea. For this design, the main motif is the star of Bethlehem. The Bible pages of Matthew 2 are torn apart and glued as a texture within the star points, representing our need to constantly break down fear in service to the God who calls us into a fearless life of love. The star pattern is overlaid in chalk and soft pastel, reiterating the power of God as our guide — who, in this text, is showing the way home by another road."

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Steve Studer

Liturgist: Jan Moore

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, Carol Haas, Chip Hazel, Bonnie Twilley

The Progress Pride flag displayed in our Sanctuary is a visual representation of Concord's mission to be a welcoming and affirming congregation to the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition to the traditional rainbow colors, the black and brown stripes represent marginalized people of color, as well as those living with HIV/AIDS. The light blue, pink, and white stripes represent the transgender community, reflecting traditional gender colors (pink and blue stripes), as well as those who identify outside the gender binary (white stripe). The chevron (triangular) shape symbolizes forward movement, and its placement along the left edge shows that progress still needs to be made.

Restrooms: All-gender, single stall handicap accessible restrooms can be found in the narthex and near Fellowship Hall. A baby changing table can be found in the one near Fellowship Hall. Men's and women's restrooms are located behind the chancel and near Jessie's Room. Feel free to use restrooms that conform to your gender identity.

Concord accepts donations via several electronic methods:

- Scanning the QR code with your smart phone will allow you to make **credit card** or **PayPal** donations to Concord.
- Use your personal **banking app** (utilizing Zelle®) to send a cash donation to donations@concordpc.org.



2025 Annual Bay Retreat



FEARLESS™ DIALOGUES

Friday & Saturday, 2/28-3/1/2025

Hyatt Place, 1301 Coastal Highway

Dewey Beach, Delaware

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

During these uncertain times, let us all be in charge with integrity to learn from one another to see things clearly and positively.

View registration information
and download a brochure

**Guarantee your registration by
2/10/25**

Plan to attend with 3 or more from your congregation to receive a \$100 scholarship reimbursement per person after the retreat!



www.NCPresbytery.org/Retreats

Mug & Muffin – Weds. @ 10:00am via Zoom: Our weekly Mug & Muffin Bible study meets again **Wed., January 8** from 10:00-11:00am, led by Pastor Eric Markman. To join the Zoom gathering online, click [here](#).

