

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- **Video:** Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net>, scroll to “Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary” and click the link for livestreaming. A link is also provided for archived videos for later viewing.
- **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#. Note that these numbers have changed from what was previously used. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Rynn Naylor*, Liturgist; *Alexandra Jablon*, Singer and Musician; *Rebecca Hibbard*, Reader, Singer and Musician; the *Walkup family*, Children’s Time.

The floral tribute this week is given by the *Craig* family, “to the glory of God and in honor of their mom, *Kathy’s* birthday.”



**Open Hearts, Open Minds
Open Doors**

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
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(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 3, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 3, 2021
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Nativity Carol* Patrick O'Brian
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Isaiah 60, Matthew 2
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

Arise; shine; for your light has come!
We are called out of our darkness into light.

Lift up your eyes and look around.
We rejoice in the gift of light.

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.
We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.

OPENING HYMN *We Three Kings*
Rebecca Hibbard, cello; Alexandra Jablon, violin

OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Rynn Naylor, Liturgist
based on Isaiah 60, Psalm 72, Matthew 2

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME led by the Walkup family

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798 Church phone: 203-263-4775
Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net
Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net
Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Pastor
Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152
Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music
Kathy Craig, Office Administrator *Mark Davis*, Lay Leader

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Week of January 3, 2021

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is Epiphany Sunday on the Christian calendar. The Epiphany of the Lord officially falls on January 6 and concludes the Christmas season, which celebrates the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. Epiphany recalls the coming of the three wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child and represent the revelation of God to the Gentiles. The liturgical colors are white and gold.

On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Table is open to all persons who seek to follow Christ, regardless of age or denominational background. An offering plate is located on the left side of the chancel to receive donations to our church's benevolence fund.

Please Join Us for Livestreamed Worship Events - Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, either at home or in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services will also be available for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer provided.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison) from *At the Lord's Table*

Merciful Father, may these mysteries give us new purpose and bring us to a new life in you. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN *The First Noel*

BENEDICTION Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE *Noel, Noel!* J.S. Bach

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rynn Naylor

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS read by Rebecca Hibbard

Lessons for Epiphany of the Lord Sunday
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (*NRSV*)
The Ingathering of the Dispersed

- 1 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.

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (*NRSV*)
The Visit of the Wise Men

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 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,

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.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Mary, Did You Know?* Mary Lowry
Rebecca Hibbard and Alexandra Jablon, singers

SERMON *This Little Light of Mine* Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) based on Isaiah 60, Matthew 2
adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around, bombarded by the news of disease and poverty, injustice and oppression, hatred and division. The tumult of events and issues and people of the dark can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us to be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of light. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON based on Isaiah 60, Matthew 2

As certain as the dawn follows the light, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all. Arise and shine. Follow the star. Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem and be transformed from darkness to light.
Amen.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EPIPHANY
from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."