

First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Scituate, UCC



**January 4, 2025
Epiphany Sunday**

**Whoever You Are, And Wherever You Are
On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here**

Following Worship everyone is invited to Rice Hall for
Fellowship and Refreshments.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Lots of vital ministry and mission work is being done each week.

To give an offering, simply scan the QR code for our secure online giving.



**Ministers to the World, *The Congregation*;
Jen Christianson, *Pastor***

**William Richter, *Director of Music*; Zandy Shepherd, *Music Assistant*
Suzanne Boag, *Admin*; Scott Holmes, *Sexton***
Ftccscituate.org

* Invites those who are able to stand / **Bold** indicates that the congregation speaks

TIME FOR REVERENT REFLECTION

Upon entering, you are encouraged to sit quietly and enjoy the prelude

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jen

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wendy Hermance, *Liturgist*

One: This is a day of high celebration in the Lord's house.

Many: **The birth of Jesus is fresh in our minds, warm in our hearts.**

One: So fresh and so warm that we offer our worship with joy as those lingering at the manger, still filled with the wonder of angel choirs, a star, and redemption's Child.

Many: **Let us listen, sing, and pray as those waiting on tip-toe for the next revelation of our loving God.**

OPENING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

#163, *all verses*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Wendy Hermance, *Liturgist*

All: **Almighty God, your Son revealed in signs and wonders the greatness of your saving love. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM

March of the Three Kings

CHILDREN ARE INVITED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children through grade 12 are invited to [Sunday school](#)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12

Pastor Jen

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² 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.'³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem

of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 “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.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Following Stars

Pastor Jen

* SERMON HYMN

We Three Kings

#166 *all verses*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Now Let Us All Right Merry Be

by David Music

* SONG OF PRAISE

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Jen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Jen

All are welcome to participate in the sacrament

All: 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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

All: We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.
We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.
May we bask in this glow
Now and forevermore. Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

#167, all verses

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old 163

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed . . . and they worshiped Him. Matt. 2:10-11

1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day Keep us in the

star be - hold; As with joy they hailed its light,
 man - ger bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
 rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; And when earth - ly things are past,

Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
 Him Whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So, may we with
 Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
 Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no

Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to Thee.
 will - ing feet Ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'n-ly King.
 star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide. A - men.

TEXT: William C. Dix
MUSIC: Conrad KocherDIX
7.7.7.7.7.

166 We Three Kings

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem . . . Magi from the east came. Matt. 2:1

1. We three kings of O-ri-ent are: Bear-ing gifts we trav-erse a-far-
 2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him a-gain,
 3. Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I: In-cense owns a De-i-ty nigh;
 4. Myrrh is mine: its bit-ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom-
 5. Glo-rious now be-hold Him a-rise: King and God and Sac-ri-fice;

Field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain— Fol-low-ing yon-der star.
 King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er O-ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais-ing, all men rais-ing, Wor-ship Him, God on high.
 Sor-r'wing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Earth to heav'n re-plies.

Refrain

O star of won-der, star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
 West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.

