

*“Creation is not a hurdle on the road to God,
it is the road itself.”*

— MARTIN BUBER

Rainstick & Welcome

Gathering Music - *Our Worship of God begins with the playing of the Prelude.*
We invite you to use this time in silent prayer and preparation.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Opening *A Genealogy of Jesus Christ*
written by Bert Marshall and based on Matthew 1.1-17

Opening Hymn* *Once in Royal David's City* **CH#165**

Litany for the Day of Epiphany *Isaiah 60.1-6*

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 nations shall come to you.

***A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Mid'ian and E'phah;
all those from Sheba shall come.***

They shall bring gold and frankincense,

And shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Sung Response*

Glory to God

CH#34

***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest,
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.***

Anthem

Goin' to Bethlehem

Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Matthew 2.1–12

Meditation on the Word

Rev. Bert Marshall

Hymn*

We Three Kings

CH#172

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

Sung Response*

Doxology

(sung to the tune: What Star Is This with Beams so Bright)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.***

Prayer of Dedication*

The Church at Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*A literal translation from the Aramaic*)

Our Father who is throughout the universe, let your name be set apart. Come your kingdom. Let your desire be, as in the universe, also on the earth. Give us bread for our necessities this day. And free us from our offenses, as also we have freed our offenders. And do not let us enter into temptation, but set us free from error. For belongs to you the kingdom, power, and song, From ages to ages, sealed in faithfulness. *Rocco A. Errico, translator*

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

Passing the Peace of Christ

Communion Hymn*

The First Noel

CH#151
vs 1,3, & 5

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them, ourselves. Amen. (Iona Abbey Worship Book)

Bread of the Earth, Fruit of the Vine *(the elements are shared)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for uniting us at this table in the body of Christ, and for this meal which fills us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this bread and this cup may be active in your service.

Go with us now, as we begin the long journey outward from Bethlehem, to the places where we live our lives, and let us shine in our world the way we shone that night as we knelt beside the manger. In the name of the Child we pray, Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Closing Hymn*

Joy to the World

CH#143

Benediction*

Benediction Response*

Jesus Howdy

1. *I'm gonna tell my Jesus howdy; I'm gonna tell my Jesus howdy some of these days, Alleluia!*
I'm gonna tell my Jesus howdy, Gonna tell my Jesus howdy some of these days.
2. *I'm gonna see my baby Jesus ...*
3. *Shining star is gonna lead me ...*
4. *You're gonna wish you had 'a come with me ...*
5. *I'm gonna tell my Jesus howdy ...*

Postlude

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Greeter: *Nancy Fowler*

Ushers: *Marjorie & Ernie Wheeler, Sherry & Don Singer*

Reader: *Kate Duffy*

Coffee Hour: *Marjorie & Ernie Wheeler*

Deacons: *Kerrick Johnson, Ilene Gillander, Cheryl Zanleoni, Tony*

Welcome to the Barre Congregational Church, UCC!

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Rev. Bert Marshall, *Interim Pastor*

Nancy Fowler, *Assistant to the Pastor*

Eric Tuper-Giles, *Music Director & Organist*

Hollie Friot, *Church School Director*

Mary Ann Johnson, *Parish Nurse*

Kathy Adams, *Bookkeeper*

Neil Upham, *Custodian*

We are an Open & Affirming and a Just Peace Church