

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, January 2, 2022
Epiphany**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude: "What Child is This?" William C. Dix

Welcome: Mitch Samu

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Come to worship Emmanuel, God with us!

People: Like the shepherds, we have received the invitation to seek out Jesus and encounter him.

Leader: God invites you to seek out Jesus and share him with others.

People: With open hearts, open minds, and open doors, we share God's good news.

Leader: May we be changed and, in turn, change those with whom we share this news.

All: Like the shepherds, we spread the good news among the nations, may all come to worship God!

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Everlasting God, thank you for sending Jesus to be born in Bethlehem of Judea on that astonishing night, while shepherds watched their flocks. Thank you for the good news of great joy, which is for all people who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Thank you for this gospel of grace and for entrusting us, no matter who we are, to ponder, treasure, and share it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Opening Song: "Go Tell It On The Mountain" UMH #251

*Hymn: "There's A Song in the Air" UMH #249

*Hymn: "We Three Kings" UMH #254

Prayer Hymn: "What Child Is This?" UMH #219

Pastoral Prayer: Mitch Samu

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 - The Message Dan Tagatac
Matthew 2:1-12 - The Magi Visit the Messiah
Psalm 46:10

Sermon: "Special Sermon" Mitch Samu

Offering: The Special Offering for January will benefit **Human Relations Day.**

Offertory: "Amazing Grace" John Newton

*Doxology:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

Offertory Prayer by Marianne Williamson

Mitch Samu

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn:

“All Creatures of Our God and King”
(vs. 1, 5, 7)

UMC #62

*Benediction:

Mitch Samu

*Postlude:

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Ludwig van Beethoven

Scripture Passage for Sunday, January 2, 2022

Liturgist: Dan Tagatac

Psalm 23 (The Message)

¹⁻³ GOD, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.

You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

True to your word,
you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.

⁴ Even when the way goes through
Death Valley,

I'm not afraid
when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherd's crook
makes me feel secure.

⁵ You serve me a six-course dinner
right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head;
my cup brims with blessing.

⁶ Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.

I'm back home in the house of GOD
for the rest of my life.

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah (New International Version)

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’^[b]”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Psalm 46:10 (The Message)

“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

“There's a Song in the Air”

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! The star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!

In the light of that star
Lie the ages imperaled;
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
And the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
That Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.
Ay! We shout to the lovely
Evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle
Our Savior and King!

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

“What Child Is This”

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!

O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!