

A Service of Song, Word, & Table
January 4, 2026

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Dr. Daniel Cummings

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

***HYMN** The First Noel UMH 245

*** A READING FROM THE GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

(11:00) ANTHEM Jesus, the Light of the World Wesley/Elderkin Drop In Choir

HOMILY

MUSICAL RESPONSE We Three Kings (vs 1,2) UMH 254

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gracious God,

we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child,
those who dropped all that they were doing
and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.
We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability;
who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child,
that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God,
we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod.
Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,
find our own need for control more compelling
than the needs of others for health and safety.
Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,
rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.
Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents
for the sake of profit, or power,
or because we fear to know, and to change,
the injustices of this world.
Loving God,
we confess our sins against you and one another,
and pray that you will fill us with your light,
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,
without counting the cost.
In the name of Christ,
the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Silence

God's light is present in this world.
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.
God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.
God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.
We are loved; we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN This Little Light of Mine Spiritual

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 17

May the Creator of the Holy Way be with you.

And also with you.

Do not be afraid, people of God, but lift your hearts to the holy One.

Our hearts will be filled with God's hope and grace.

Children of God, offer songs of goodness to the One who keeps faith forever.

We offer glad praises to the One who comes with justice.

Chaos had laid out a path for you,
God on unparalleled imagination,
but you chose a different road,
 paved with the bricks of beauty,
 lined with majestic oak trees,
 right next to rivers flowing into oceans.

This gift, which we call creation,
was given to provide light
out of the emptiness of temptation,
 but we continued to live
 in those shadows we found
 so appealing and comfortable.

you sent women and men to us,
those ordinary folks who spoke
of your steadfast love and hope,
 but we continued to trail behind
 temptation as it led us further from you.
since you knew we could not find
our way back to you on our own,
you sent Jesus to us,
your servant of salvation.

so, with the wise as well as the foolish,
with those who know the way by heart,
and those in need of road assistance,
we sing of your grace and love:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Though he knew the streets
of glory like the back of his hand,
though he had played hopscotch
on the sidewalks of eternity,
when in your holiness, God of grace,
you called him to become one of us,
Jesus was willing

 to become a prisoner of sin
 so we might be set free;

Jesus was willing
 to travel another road,
 going to Calvary, so
 we could run with abandon
 into your arms of grace.

So, as we celebrate his birth and love,
as we start down a different road called faith,
may we understand that mystery revealed through him:

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

We have traveled different roads
than we expected this year,
Star Maker and Bread Baker,
yet we have all been led to this Table,
where you send down your Spirit
upon the gifts of life and grace
and all who have gathered wherever they are.
Hope was broken on the cross,
but like this bread, it gives us the strength
to travel different roads
 as we seek justice for those who have none,
 as we challenge power to listen to the voiceless,
 as we stand with those who are cast aside.
Grace was poured out in resurrection love
and through the gift of this cup, it refreshes us
so that we can go down different roads
 to share meals with strangers in our neighborhoods,
 to welcome the lonely as close family,
 to continue to distance ourselves, so that
 one day we can embrace each other.

And when our different roads lead us to you,
gathered around your feast of love,
with all we have missed and lost,

all who have been ignored and dismissed,
all our sisters and brothers
from every time and from every place,
we will join in songs of praise to you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN IN YOUR HEART LANGUAGE)

**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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

R3 Amen, amen, amen.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Daniel Cummings

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*** SENDING HYMN Jesus Shall Reign UMH 157**

BENEDICTION

Lord of Light—shine on us,
Lord of Peace—dwell in us,
Lord of Mighty—succour us,
Lord of Love—enfold us,
Lord of Wisdom—enlighten us.

Then, Lord, let us go out as your witness, in obedience to your command, to share the Good News of your love for us in the gift of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

POSTLUDE

Dr. Daniel Cummings