The Magi

More Light & Truth

January 9, 2022

10:30 a.m. service

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org

Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

"Welcoming, Loving, Serving, Where God has No Limits"

Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE "As With Gladness Men of Old" – arr. Janet Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

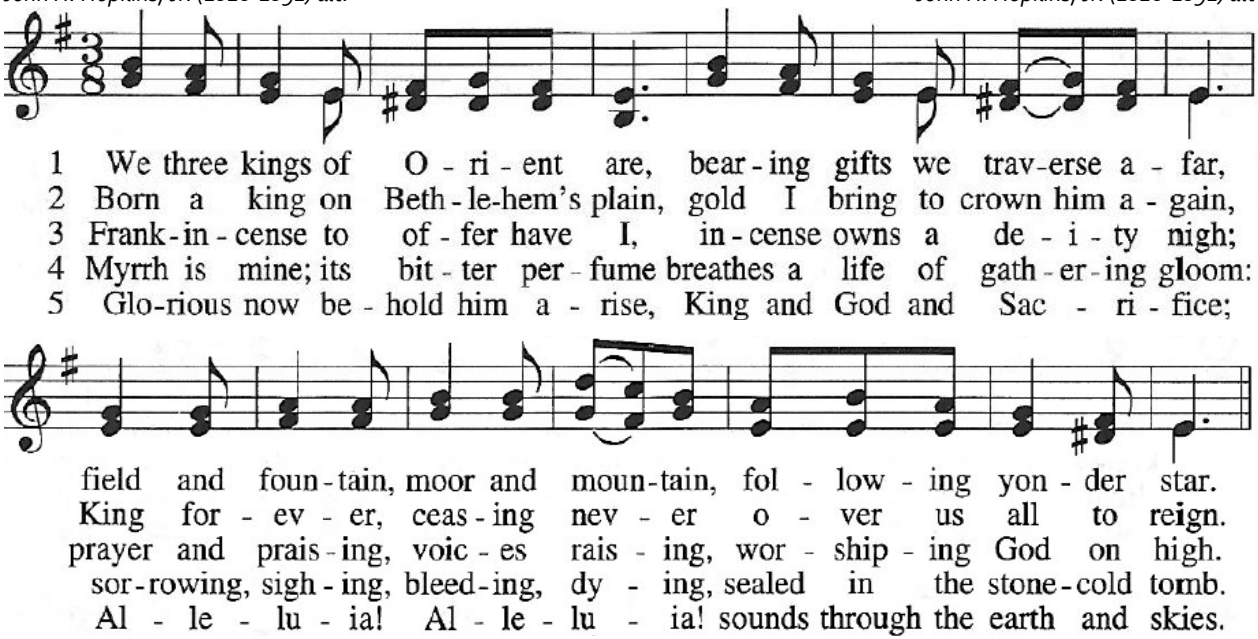
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

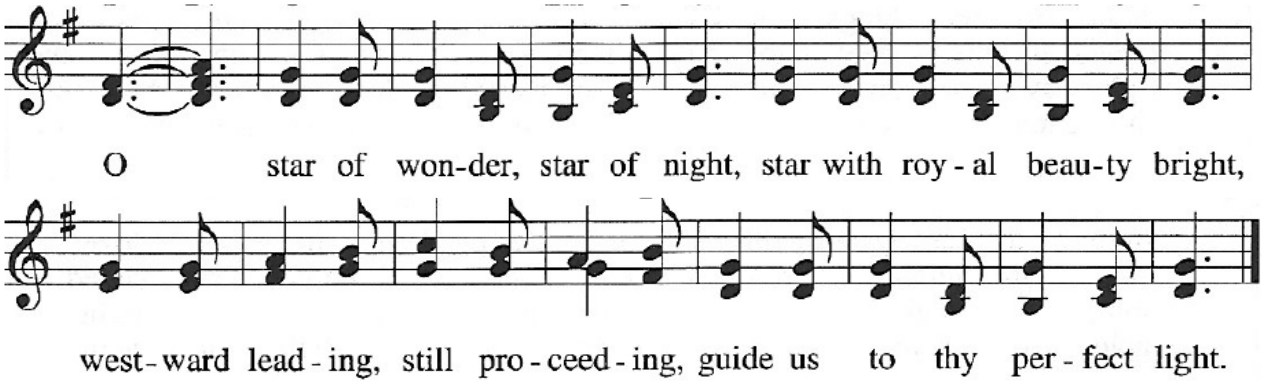
PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN "We Three Kings"**

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6.Ref

John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891) alt. *John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891) alt*





CALL TO WORSHIP *(worship liturgy from UCC Worship Ways, Festival of Epiphany Year C)*

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: We have seen the star in the sky and have come to worship the Christ Child.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

People: The star is resting over Bethlehem, and we come rejoicing, overwhelmed with joy.

All: Let us bring the gift of our hearts and the gift of our lives to worship our God of light and everlasting love.

ANTHEM "Three Kings in Splendor" – Douglas Wagner — Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 — Pam Branscome, Liturgist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

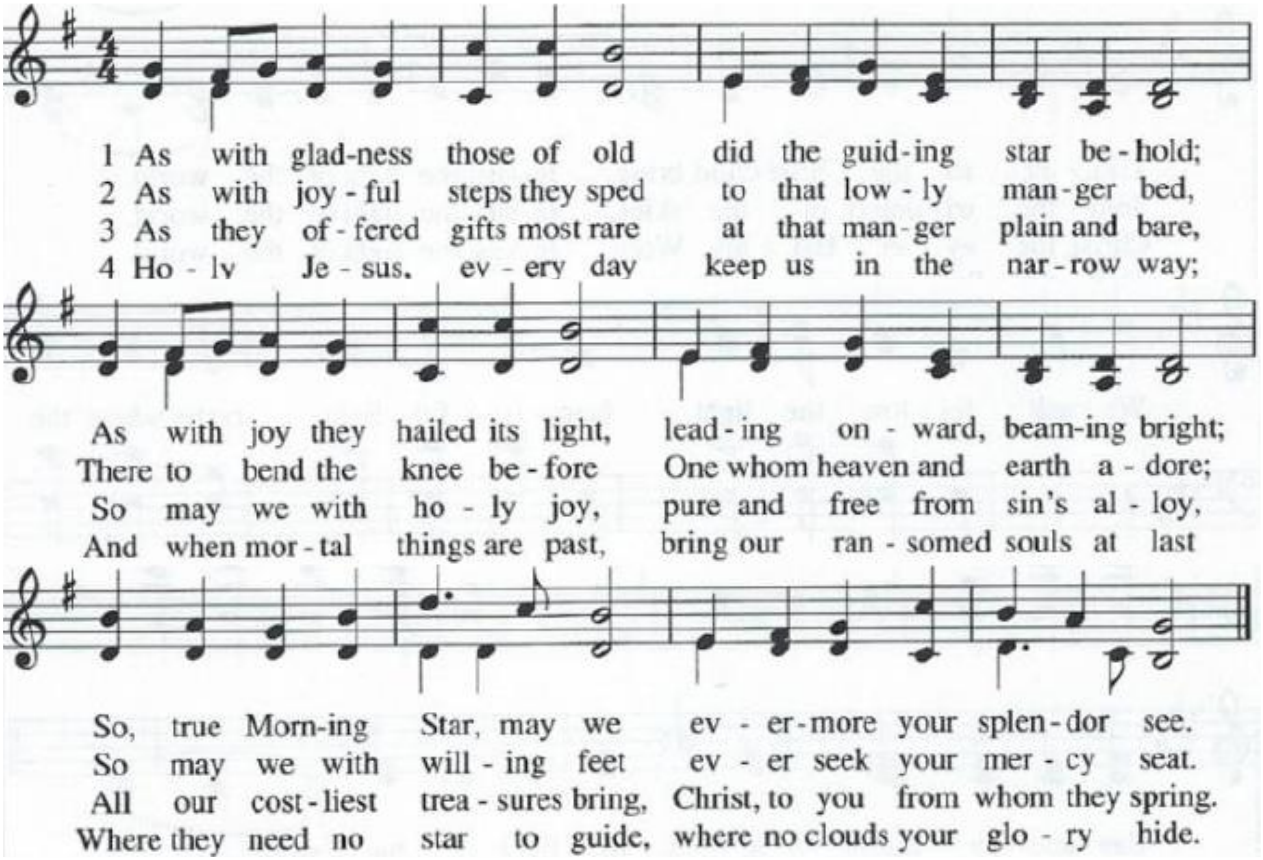
Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "The Magi" — Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN **"As With Gladness Those of Old"**

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.7.

William C. Dix, 1861; alt. — *Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*



OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate by the East Room and by the tower doors if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offering Invitation

As the Magi of old, guided by a star in the night sky, brought gifts of homage and gratitude, so we bring our gifts today. May these gifts scatter the shadows of those in need.

***Doxology for Epiphany** *(Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 & Gustav Holst, 1906)*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

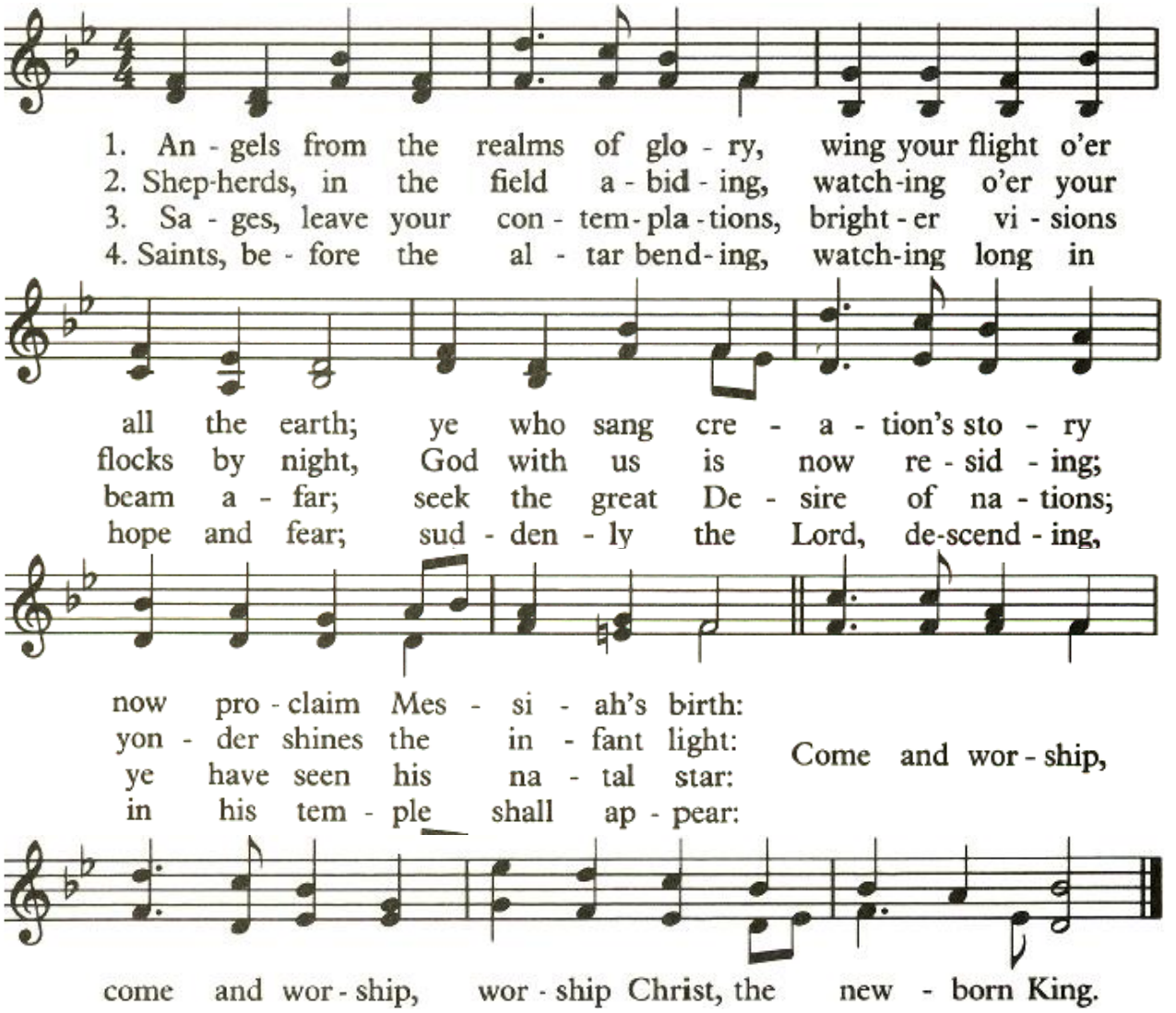
***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we come to you seeking to be as wise as the Magi,
who gave of their most precious treasures —
symbols of the giving of themselves to the Christ Child.
May these gifts be a source of light in places where your light and love are needed most.
Amen.

***HYMN** **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

James Montgomery, 1816 *Henry T. Smart, 1867*



***BENEDICTION**

Leader: The night has gone and the Light has come!
People: May the light of the Bethlehem star,
Leader: the wisdom of the Magi,
People: and the hope that the Christ Child brings
Leader: be with you always. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

***POSTLUDE** "March of the 3 Kings" – arr. Kenneth Kosche Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
JANUARY 9, 2022

"Welcoming, Loving, Serving, Where God Has No Limits.

More Than Church On Sunday!"

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

January 9, 2022 thru January 16, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class (with parents)
Mon	**1:00 pm**	**Bible Encounter**
	6:30 pm	**Women's Bible Study**
	7:00 pm	**Bible Encounter**
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Worship Team
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
Thurs		
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:45 am	Caring Team
	11:45 am	Mission Team
	4:30 pm	Youth Group

FRIENDLY FOLKS NEEDED

We'd love to have a friendly face at the downstairs door when people enter before the 10:30 service in the new year. It's your choice to shake hands, fist-bump, or wave "hi". Please sign up online at http://tinyurl.com/UCCGreeter or call/text Kate Lindon for available dates at 330-663-1801.

Worship Highlights: 8:15 am, 9:00, & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "The Magi" - Rev. Luke Lindon

See the prayer page regarding the red rose on the communion table.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!

Annual Reports are due **NOW** from the following:

- **Endowment Committee**
- **Stewardship Committee**
- **Treasurer**
- **Church Clerk**

If you have any questions or need a copy of last years' annual report to refer to please let me know.

Please email your reports to Cindy in the office at: office@uccmedina.org or drop them off in the church office.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 30th immediately following ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10 a.m. Please plan to attend!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING THANK YOU

Thanks to your generosity, we have collected $1879 for the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Offering.

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING VIA ZOOM

Kick debt once and for all! Yes—it's possible. Join my virtual *Financial Peace University class* and learn the proven way to dump debt and build wealth. It's not a joke or a get-rich-quick scheme. It's God's and grandma's ways of handling money. You can do it! And now, you can try Financial Peace free for 14 days! Visit **fpu.com/1141840** to sign up and learn more. Class starts **Thursday, January 20, 2022**.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2022 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. Please sign up to sponsor the Communion Table Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. **We have lots of openings for flowers in January** as well as throughout the year.

Please fill in your name and **check "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is $22.50.

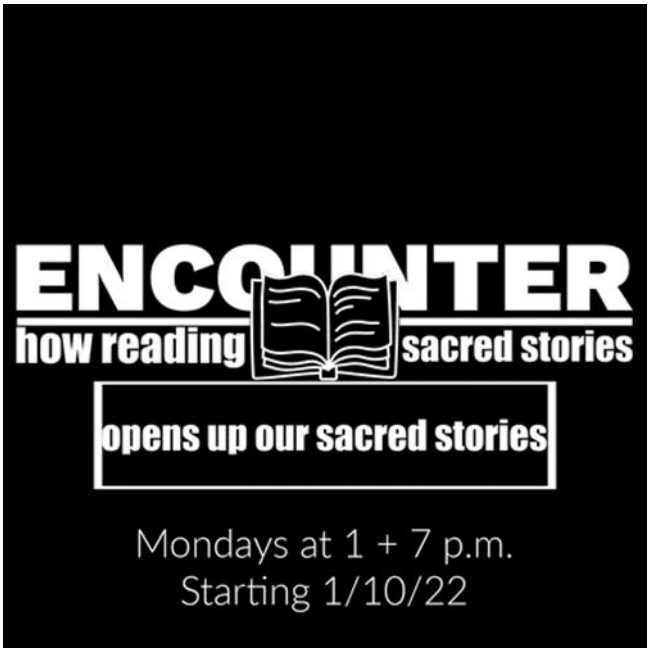
Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

MLK DAY SERVICE

Monday, January 17th at 7:00 pm

First Baptist Church will hold the MLK Day service. You may attend in person at (3646 Medina Rd. Medina, OH) or watch it live at: www.firstmedina.org/mlk

The guest speaker for the evening will be Mayor Dennis Hanwell.



Hobby Horse Preschool

Early Registration for UCC members and their families starts Monday, January 10, 2022!

Contact Jen Vilimonovic, Preschool Director at 330-722-1445 or director@hobbyhorsepreschool.org For more information!

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am
Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

January 9, 2022
The Baptism of Christ
First Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Affirmed by Love

When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, a voice came from heaven introducing and announcing him as "beloved." Since that holy day, belovedness has marked every baptized person as known, named and cherished by God.

Yet too often the church has been a place of condemnation and judgment for those who seek healing and solace. Especially bereft are the many at the mercy of our nation's prison industry. But here and there, voices within the United Church of Christ call for healing and hope for these often-forgotten beloved ones.

*Rev. Phillip Reller of Arizona writes, "We are called to embody Jesus' heart and show forth his compassion to prisoners.
It is a very practical ministry of – Incarnation – love made visible in the flesh. Being there. Ours are a new set of ears listening to immensely consequential stories which have worn thin in the retelling to familiar cell and pod mates. Ours are new conversations and new perspectives.
It is a ministry of advocacy. Being there. The men I visit are cut off by thousands of miles from their families, communities, and support systems in private for-profit prisons. They are treated as strange enemies and are forced into culturally and religiously molded programs of "rehabilitation" which strip them of their cultural identity and dignity. Visiting allows us to witness their struggle and speak as allies for rehabilitation and respectful treatment.
It is a ministry of reconciliation. Being there. I have been allowed to share firsthand reports of the condition of their sons, husbands, and daddies with families who have been estranged or ashamed or in the confusion of unresolved anger and grief. Appropriate sharing can build bridges towards forgiveness and new relationships. It can calm deep anxieties. It can pave the way for connections that create positive re-entry."

On this celebration of baptism day, be in prayer about how you can "be there" along with Rev. Reller with God's imprisoned beloved ones.

*Reller, Phillip. "Prison Ministry."
United Church of Christ, www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/justice_criminal-justice_prison-ministry/