

Wilbraham United Church
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

500 Main Street

Wilbraham MA 01095

Phone: (413)596-2511

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

January 5, 2025

2nd Sunday after Christmas

10:00AM

We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to our time of refreshments and friendship in our Fellowship Hall. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and up the stairs. If you are unable to use the stairs, an elevator is available.

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: The First Noel

arr. J. Raney

Bells: Carol of the Bells

arr. J.W. Krug

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 253 (UMH)**

We Three Kings

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Mantler

Liturgist: The Lord has entered our existence, sharing our sorrows, sharing our joys, walking amongst us and showing us the way to live in the light.

People: The Divine One has done great things for us, revealing God's wonder and grace. God has sent forth a Savior to renew a right spirit within us and to reaffirm that we are beloved children of our Creator. We have been blessed by the goodness of our Lord.

Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God,

You have visited and redeemed your people by the generosity of your love. You have gifted us with your holy Word, made alive and in the flesh, so that we may hear you more and know you better. Come to us, Oh Lord, and give us open hearts. Grant that we may follow you with exuberance, be your good and faithful witness, and spread your light wherever we go. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #238 refrain (UMH)**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

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 in 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 the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 3: 1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 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.

Sung Response # 230 vs 4 (UMH)

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

*HYMN *see insert*

As with Gladness Those of Old

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Christmastime
Chancel Choir

arr. L. Larson

*Doxology #254 (UMH)

*Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light*

*Prayer of Dedication

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*PARTING HYMN *see insert*

Arise, Your Light Is Come

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 246 vs 4 (UMH)

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. M. McDonald

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

*UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Sherrie and Ralph Ridgeway

Liturgist: Bob Mantler

Greeter: Gail & Chris Lima



The altar flowers this morning are given in celebration of Catherine Gardner's 90th birthday by her daughter, Karen Gatchell.

Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, David Pierangelo, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

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As with Gladness Those of Old

159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

Matt. 2:1-12

1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

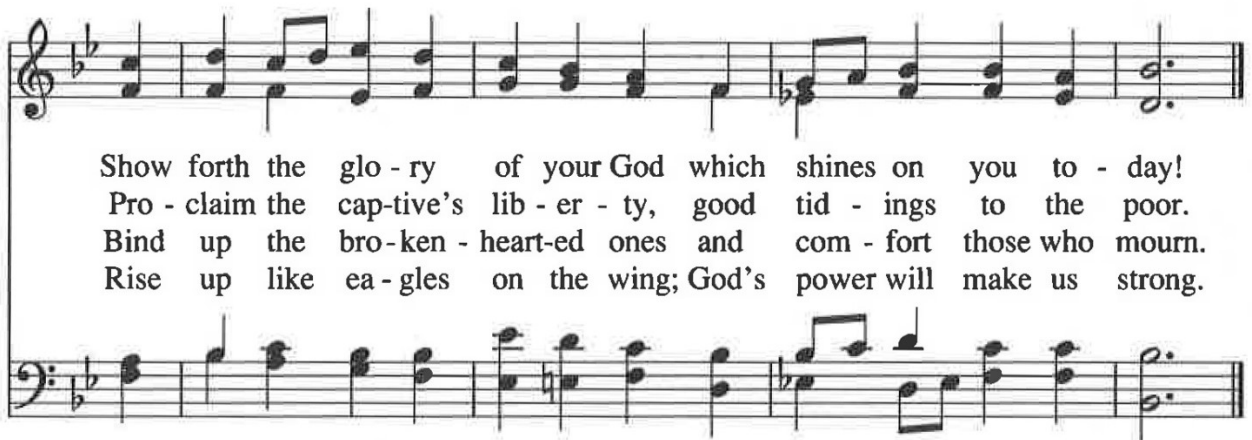
After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*


1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 5, 2025

Altar Flower sign-ups are available for many Sundays in 2025. Please consider dedicating the flowers to a loved one on a special Sunday. Flowers are \$35.



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, January 5, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, January 6, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Preschool Music (FH)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

Friday, January 10, 2025

Church Office closed

10:00 a.m. – Preschool Music (FH)

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Church Office closed

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Jesus the Word

from John 1:10-18



Christmas 2

Jesus helps us know God and God's grace.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- John
- Word
- Jesus
- Grace

The word "grace" occurs in the first chapter of John's gospel four times. This is the only time that "grace" occurs in The Gospel of John.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 240-241

Spark Bible page 1171

Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for Jesus. He helps us to know you! Thank you for all of your love, your grace, and your truth. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What does grace mean?
- 2 How does Jesus help us to know God?
- 3 Tell about a time when you experienced God's grace.
- 4 Line up your family youngest to oldest. Start with the youngest person and have them name one thing they've learned about God from Jesus. The next youngest lists two things. The next, three, etc.



Eye Spark

When you see a baby, remember that Jesus came into the world as a baby just like us!



Ear Spark

If you hear the word grace, think of this story in which Jesus is described as being full of grace and truth.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Sing or listen to the hymn "Amazing Grace" together. Paint or draw a picture of what you think grace looks like. It does not have to depict a scene—it can be abstract. What color and shape is grace? How big is grace? How do you know grace when you see it?

For younger kids

Use your body (and/or the bodies of your family and friends) to spell the word *grace*.

For older kids

Search the web to find a translation tool that will help you figure out the Greek word for *grace*. (The New Testament was originally written in Greek!) What other Bible words can you find?

