



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 4, 2026 | 2nd Sunday after Christmas Day | Holy Communion
10:00 AM Theme: Epiphany

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor
Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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 that 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.

* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE

CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN ***BOLD Italic***

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

*OPENING HYMN

"We Three Kings"

UMH 254

(During the hymn you are invited to bring your "Baby Shower" gifts up to the altar)

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salvation. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe and cannot deny the presence of the Holy Spirit with us today. Light of God, Glory of God, we meet you in this sacred time and space, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 NT p.2

SERMON "Seeing the Light"

ANTHEM "Star of the East" Amanda Kennedy

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1 &6) UMH 234++

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 15-16

LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP (*Everyone is invited to come to the rail to receive the bread and cup*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"The First Noel" (Verses 1-3)

UMH 245++

*BENEDICTION

For all that has been...**Thanks!**

For all that will be...**Yes!**

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST: Laurie Osczepinski, Barbara Urban, The Hernandez Family, Dianne Siconolfi, Rhonda Leister, Pastora Veronica, Greg Hunt, Patrick Singer, Marshall Cooper, Mark Geleyn, Carolyn Grossmann, Linda Ryder, Marie Fornoff, Scott Seltzer, Barbara Cooper, Beth Klopfleisch, David Scheer, Mike St. Jean, Joanne Green, Sue Rhodes, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, The Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Richard Holt, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi

GREETER | The Hancock Family **LITURGIST** | Liz Steen

FELLOWSHIP | *Join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour*

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE (*IN COMMUNITY RM/NURSERY AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE*)

CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY

CRAFTY LADIES: WILL RESUME IN SPRING

MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

- **Friday, January 9th 6:00 PM—Ecumenical Food Pantry at Good Shepherd**
- **Thursday, January 15th 7:30 PM—Faith & Fiction Book Group**
- **Saturday, January 17th 2:15PM— One Board Planning Retreat (Fellowship Hall)**
- **Friday, February 6th 6:00 PM—Pizza & Game Night (RSVP to office by 2/5)**
- **Saturday, February 7th—"Love Songs" Cabaret Night Time & Details T/B/A**
- **Sunday, February 8th—SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**
- **Friday, February 13th 6PM—Ecumenical Food Pantry at Good Shepherd**
- **Thursday, February 19th 7:30 PM—Faith & Fiction Book Group**
- **Mondays 6PM, February 23rd—March 30th —Lenten Soup & Study**
- **Sunday, March 15th 4-7PM—Tastefully British Fish & Chips Fundraiser**

This Sunday's Communion Offering will be dedicated to our Shared Ministry Giving. The Shared Ministry Fund is required giving that is apportioned equitably to all churches to support the numerous administrative functions, ministry programs and mission endeavors of our Greater New Jersey Conference.

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