

**WORSHIP SERVICE JANUARY 2, 2022  
2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, CLM Sandy Knapp

**GREETING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "We Three Kings"

**OPENING PRAYER**

**It's a brand new year! A page in life never before written upon! That's a great thought. It's also a bit frightening. As there are a multitude of ways in which we can make 2022 a better year, there are also many ways we can blow it. Maybe that's why we're here this morning, to seek the One who gives us this new year, and to find in him the paths we should follow. As he did for the wise men so long ago, God sets before us a star of guidance... ..if only we bother to look for it. Eternal God, this is the day which you have made. Help us to rejoice and be glad in it. Help us not to blow it. Shine your light upon our way, that we may follow you. Today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

By: Peter Haynes

**MUSIC** "Angels From The Realm of Glory" UMH#220

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831  
401-821-8217 [www.sovumc.org/give-now](http://www.sovumc.org/give-now)**

**DOXOLOGY** Sign Language & Adult Choirs

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to

work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

**PRAYER RESPONSE**      “Grace Alone

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

**MATTHEW 2: 1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**SERMON**      “Make Us Aware”  
Rev. Effie McAvoy

**COMMUNION**  
**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Creator God is with us!

**God is with us now!**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

It is right and good, always and everywhere, to give praise to God, the Creator of all that is. love in a dog's caress, grace in the tilling and turning of soil, hope in a fresh season of spring, freedom in winged flight— all creation speaks volumes of God.

You created it all and called it good. You fashioned us from the clay of the earth and formed us on your potter's wheel. Even when we crack under pressure, even when we find ourselves broken into pieces, you are always there to lovingly mend and heal us. You promised to be our forever-God and you have remained faithful through ages and eons. And so, with all creatures of the earth and heavenly beings, with all that croak and sing, howl and yip, purr and squeak, we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving!

**Gathered here, we give praise and thanks to you Gathered here, we lift our voices Gathered here, in the glory of your love Hosanna, now!**

Creativity and Being is who you are, and so, wanting to dance in the arms of your beloveds You came to us in human form to breathe your own air in lungs, to feel your own dirt underfoot, to drink your own water for the quenching of holy thirst. You walked, talked, taught, and loved among us, creating what could not be forged outside of human touch. We needed a Mirror for our Souls. We needed to see Love in Action. And so you came. Jesus invited us to true communion— with you and with each other— stranger and friend, loved and unlovable, insider and outcast. Through the gifts of the earth that sustain and give us life, you broke open our hearts and challenged us to go and do likewise. It is our birthright—you reminded us—our nature, to call forth beauty and compassion in this world— for we are your image, capable of deep and abiding love, not just self-preservation. We ask you to infuse your church, your Body, With the peace and passion that is ours to offer.

And so we break this bread of life, paying forward the gift of love, keeping alive the reminder to “do this in remembrance of me.”  
And we pour out this cup of love, paying forward the gift of grace, keeping alive the reminder to “do this in remembrance of me.”

The narrative of hope is ours to share, repeating together after me...

Christ has died  
**Christ has died**  
Christ is risen  
**Christ is risen**  
Christ is living still!  
**Christ is living still!**

I invite you to open your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

Like fresh rain in a drought, like sunshine breaking through clouds, like morning dew after a long night, pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the manna we need to feed a hungry world and the salve we require to heal a hurting planet.

Challenge us, Spirit. Nudge us to reach out, to touch your holiness in all things and be changed by our encounters. Show us our oneness, our connections, always and already there. Open our eyes and once we see it, let us never un-see it. Let us know it. Let us live it. Let us share it.

We pray this in the name of your holy dancing three-in-one, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all!

**Gathered here in the mystery of the hour Gathered here in one strong body Gathered here in the struggle and the power Spirit, draw near.**

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

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**