



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

Epiphany Sunday

Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid
January 1, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

**Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
alight within us your flame of life this day.
Grant us openness to hear your message.
Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,
creating more life in the midst of fear. Amen**

Song

There Are Angels Among Us
By Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell
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**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

Passing of the Peace

*Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass
the peace in the chat on Facebook.*

***Hymn**

We Three Kings
By John H. Hopkins
Public domain

**We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Children's Moment

***Prayer of our Savior**

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Scripture

Matthew 2: 1-23

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“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.” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Sermon

“Creating Safety in Vulnerability”

Lauren Dube-Scott

Solo

Midge Christopher

I Wonder as I Wander
Traditional American
Sung by Midge Christopher

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation
Words of Institution
Prayer of Consecration
Sharing of the Elements

***Communion Song**

Away in a Manger
By James R. Murray
Public domain

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Touch us, O Spirit, and these gifts, with your transforming power. Open us to your promise of resurrection from fear and death. In partaking of these elements, make us a people ready as your body in and for an anxious world. Let us become the messengers of your hope, peace, joy, and love in all that we say and do. Make us one in this purpose, O God. Amen.

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

***Hymn**

The First Nowell
Traditional English carol
Public domain

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise ones came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

***Benediction**

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo
By F.W. Zachau
Public domain

**Please stand as you are able.*
Bolded font to be read by all/