

# Welcome to Church of Christ Sunday Morning Worship

*We are honored to worship God with you today.*

**December 28, 2025**

**Rev. Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro**

## **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship** (from Lavon Baylor)

Leader: Break forth into singing, all God's people.  
Hear the good tidings of salvation and peace

**Together: God has done marvelous things among us.  
Let us make a joyful noise together.**

Leader: There is a new song in the air.  
The whole universe responds to the child in our midst.

**Together: The winds lift up the songs of angels.  
Flames of fire proclaim the spirit's presence.**

Leader: A light shines amid our gloom.  
The Word comes to make a difference in our lives.

**Together: As children of God, we are witnesses to the light.  
As followers of Christ, we proclaim the wonder of rebirth.**

### **Hymn 233** *We Three Kings* (Worship & Rejoice)

Vs 1 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 light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Vs 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Vs 3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Vs 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Vs 5 Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

## **Silent Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (trespasses/debts)

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 (debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (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

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon** Home By Another Road

**Hymn 229** *The First Noel* (Worship & Rejoice)

Vs 1 The First Noel, 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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Vs 2 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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Vs 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far, to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Vs 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Vs 5 Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knees, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Vs 6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath brought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**Light of Service:** Christmas Fund (UCC Offering) ~Debbie Storrs

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients.

Thank you!

### **Offertory**

### **Doxology**

(NOTE: Two versions are offered; the alternative doxology uses language that is gender-neutral in reference to God.)  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates**

**Sharing Prayer Concerns** (See list of names below)

**Silent Meditation and Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn 189** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (Worship & Rejoice)

Vs 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar, seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 4 Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord descending, in this temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

**Our Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**We gladly list these prayer concerns** and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information. If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick (860-303-0910, reverendole@gmail.com).

**Members needing our prayers:** Patty Cammilletti, Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse, Linda Creedon, Bill Eckert, Bonnie Greenwood, Holly Kelsey, Will Kelsey, Elizabeth Norman, Arlene Patten, Dan Patten, Cindy Sinclair, John Thew

**Ongoing concerns for our**

**relatives and friends:** Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Kelly, Kim, Susannah, Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Andrea Bargabos (Liz Allyn's friend), Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend), Leigh Cappabianca (Missionary in Turkey), Jan Caudle (Nels White's sister), Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father), Lisa Dedon, Ernest Dibble (David Bourne's uncle), Carol Emerson (Nancy Herzig's sister), Nancy Foster (Olsen family friend), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen), Yael Channah Greene (Olsen family friend), Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Lori Hoyt, Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother), Allan Marrero (Michael McDermott's friend), Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte), Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family, Nash Pradhan, Lynn and Rich Reifsnnyder, Constance Rotondo (Jane Williams), Mark Scarbrough (Elizabeth Norman), Laura Smith (Missionary in Venezuela), Ryan Sterba,

Wendy Sullenberger (Liz Allyn), Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister),  
Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch, Keegan Zygmont

**Those who are grieving**

**the families of:** George Green, Judy Green, Jackie Hamad, Jimmy Irving, Harold King,  
Warren Leech, John Marinelli, Avery Nelson, Mary Sager, Mimi Wilson

**In the wider community** The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan and all  
enduring ongoing violence, The people of Syria, particularly the Christian community,  
St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, The people of Jamaica struggling to rebuild after  
Hurricane Melissa.