

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**January 7, 2024 at 11:00 AM**  
**Worship Series: Bread, Bath, and Beyond**  
**Message: Bread**  
**UMH – United Methodist Hymnal**  
**TFWS – The Faith We Sing**  
**\*Stand in body or in spirit**

**Gathering** *How Many Kings* Praise Band

**Welcome/Announcements** Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Centering Moment**

**\*Centering Song** *Take My Life* Praise Band

**\*Opening Prayer** Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God Beyond our Knowing**  
**and yet right here in our midst,**  
**feed our souls for the journey ahead**  
**into your vast horizon of possibility.**  
**Guide us with Your light**  
**Nudge us, Teacher Jesus.**  
**Love us, Holy One. AMEN.**

**Children’s Moment** Linda Biscardo

**Installation and Recognition of 2024 Church Leadership**

**Prayers of People** Sarah Chambers

**Offering Song** *Great is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End)* Praise Band

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Old Testament Reading** Exodus 16:2-15 Lisa Dickinson

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 Lisa Dickinson

**Message** *Bread* Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Invitation to Communion** Sarah Chambers

Reader: Christ invites to this table  
all who are ready to move beyond the limitations of the past,  
all who are eager to move into the “new thing”  
that God is doing in our midst,  
all who are willing to let go of the pain that’s gone.

**This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone...**

Leader: And so, this is an open invitation to come  
and receive the bread that will sustain us as we embark on this new year.  
All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup  
as a sign of God's promise of abundant possibilities.  
All are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past regrets  
and invited into God's grace-filled future!

**People: Praise to the Living God!**

Confession & Assurance

Leader: For the times when we do not trust Your provision in our lives

**People: forgive us, we pray.**

Leader: For the times when we hoard Your resources,

**People: forgive us, we pray.**

Leader: For the times when we fail to recognize You  
in those who are hungry, thirsty, cold, and alone,

**People: forgive us, we pray.**

Leader: For the times when we turn away from the sun-drenched horizon,  
fearful of making ourselves wide-open to your possibilities,

**People: give us courage, we pray.**

Leader: For those things that weigh us down  
with worry for the future and regret for the past,

**People: free us, O God.**

Leader: Know that already the Holy is making you brand new.  
Day by day, minute by minute, you are changed and changing.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God!**

Confession & Assurance

The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

The 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion

*Come As You Are*

Praise Band

Prayer Following Communion

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 to others

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

\*Closing Song

*God So Loved*

Praise Band

\*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

*God So Loved (reprise)*

Praise Band