

Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM
Worship Series: Bread, Bath, and Beyond
Message: Bread
UMH – United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS – The Faith We Sing
*Stand in body or in spirit

Cantor: Karen Ingle
Prelude

What Child Is This?

Henry McCarthy, violin

Welcome/Announcements

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: May this holy season be for each of us
a time of moving beyond what is “reasonable”
and toward the star of wonder;

People: and toward the star of wonder;

Pastor: moving beyond grasping tight to what we have
to unclenching our hands and letting go,

People: following the Light where it leads;

Pastor: moving beyond competition toward cooperation,

People: seeing that all humans are sisters and brothers;

Pastor: moving beyond the anxiety of small concerns

People: towards the joys of justice and peace.

Pastor: May the transforming acceptance of Mary and Joseph,
the imagination of the shepherds,
and the persistence of the magi
guide us as we seek the Truth,

**People: always moving toward the Divine promise.
always aware God can be hidden in the frailest among us,
always open to the unexpected flash of Grace,
to the showing forth of that Love that embraces us all.**

***Hymn**

Star-Child

TFWS 2095

***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	<i>We Three Kings</i>	
*Doxology		UMH 95
*Prayer of Thanksgiving		
Old Testament Reading	Exodus 16:2-15	Bruce Bartolain
Gospel Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	Bruce Bartolain
Message	<i>Bread</i>	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 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH 618

Prayer Following Communion

*Hymn

Christ Is the World's Light

UMH 188

*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Henry McCarthy, Violin