



## *Sudbury United Methodist Church*

**Sunday before Epiphany  
January 1, 2017**

Before worship, please feel free to greet those around you. Concerns or celebrations to be included in today's prayers may be recorded on cards in the pew pockets and passed to the ushers during the second hymn. During the prelude, let us prepare silently to worship God.

*\*indicates worshipers may stand, as they are able*

**Welcome:** A Service of Epiphany Carols

**Prelude**

**Part I – IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD**

**First Lesson from Scripture:** John 1:1-14

**Carol:** UMH # 184 – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**\*Processional Hymn:** UMH # 220 – “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

**\*Bidding Prayer** (*St. John’s College Chapel, Cambridge, England*)

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, we are gathered

to celebrate with joy the appearance of God’s glory in the world  
through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us;

to reflect upon the visit of the Magi

bringing homage to their King at his birth;

and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon

revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh,

who called us out of darkness into light,

so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ’s Church,

and for all who minister the gospel of Christ;

we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order  
and respect for every person made in the image of God;

and we pray for those who stand in need,

for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved,

and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

May God take us and use us in this service;

open our eyes to see Christ’s glory

and equip us to bless our Lord’s people, now and at all times. **Amen.**

## **Part II - THE WORD MADE FLESH**

**Sentence** Liturgist: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
they that dwell in the shadow of death,  
upon them has the light shined.

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come:

**People: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

**Collect** Liturgist: Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him and to be born of a virgin:  
Grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**Second Lesson from Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-23

**Carol:** UMH # 219 – “What Child Is This”

### **Part III - THE RULER OF THE NATIONS**

**Sentence** Liturgist: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow;  
in heaven, on earth and under the earth:  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Minister: Nations shall come to your light:

**People: And kings to your dawning brightness.**

**Collect** Liturgist: Almighty God, by the leading of a star  
you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth:  
In your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Third Lesson from Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Carol:** UMH # 254 – “We Three Kings”

### **Part IV - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**Sentence** Liturgist: The hour is coming, and now is,  
when the true worshipers will worship in spirit and in truth.

Minister: And the Lord whom you seek:

**People: Shall suddenly come to his temple.**

**Collect** Liturgist: Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple  
in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel  
and the light of the nations:  
Grant that in Christ we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
and in the world may reflect his glory;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Fourth Lesson from Scripture:** Luke 2:21-32

**Carol:** UMH # 243 – “From a Distant Home”

### **A Time of Fellowship**

**Greeting Our Guests**

**Concerns and Celebrations**

**The Pastoral Prayer**

### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Stewardship Moment**

**The Offertory:** “As with Gladness Men of Old”

**\*Doxology:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*Tannenbaum*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.**

## **Holy Communion**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving:** FWS # 2257 – a, b, c, d - “Communion Setting”

**\*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.**

## **The Giving of the Bread and Cup**

*(“Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another” [UMH page 12]. At the ushers’ invitation, worshipers may join the line to receive a morsel of the gluten and lactose-free bread in their hands, dip the bread in the cup of grape juice, and partake of both at the same time. After communing, worshipers return to their seats by the side aisles.)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**\*Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 237 – “Sing We Now of Christmas”

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## **Postlude**

This morning’s liturgist is Bob Canfield.

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**Reconciling & Welcoming Statement:** The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God’s creation. Therefore we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

**Sudbury United Methodist Church**  
**Happy New Year's Day**  
**January 1, 2017**

**Welcome, Guests!**

If you are visiting today, we would like to extend our sincere welcome. Please join us at the back of the church immediately following the worship service during the postlude to meet the pastor and some church members as well as to receive a small gift. We also invite you to join us, as time permits, for informal fellowship and coffee in Hawes Hall after the service. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to join us again.

**Ring in the New Year**

On the first day of a New Year, let's celebrate the Incarnation in song. Like many churches in England, we will ring in 2017 with an Epiphany Carol Service based on a pattern from St. John's College in Cambridge. Our service will end with Holy Communion, a long cherished tradition on New Year's Day among Methodists that goes back to John and Charles Wesley.

**Read for Spiritual Growth**

Want to read for spiritual growth? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Free booklets are available in the narthex. Help yourself! Or check out <http://devotional.upperroom.org> to visit *The Upper Room* each day online.

**Are You Looking for a Mid-Week Bible Study?**

Study next Sunday's preaching passage Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

**Coming Soon! A New Kind of Adult Study!**

How about a class for adults that you can attend at church, watch "live" on FaceBook at home, or catch up later? Pastor Joel will dig into Rob Bell's *Love Wins* at 7:00 p.m. on January 30, February 13, and February 27. Does everybody go to heaven? Is there a hell? Does love win?

**Contribute to *The Chronicle***

The first 2017 edition of Sudbury UMC's weekly newsletter, *The Chronicle*, will be published Thursday, January 5. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, January 3, at noon.

**Want to Perform in the Kidz Konzert?**

Sign up for the January 8 Kidz Konzert to benefit Open Table. Email Kevin at [kevin@sudbury-umc.org](mailto:kevin@sudbury-umc.org) to get the link to the sign up form. Last year's Kidz Konzert was great! Share the music!

## **Fun and Done! Stewardship Made Simple!**

We've heard you. You want a stewardship process that is short, sweet, and simple. So let's have a party! You're invited! Ring in the New Year! Choose from three Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.:

- January 4 at the home of Trey and Sandy Burns – 98 Hamilton Circle, Marlborough
- January 11 at the home of Jen Benson – 249 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury
- January 18 at the home of Ernie and Sherry Stonebraker – 181 Randall Road, Stow
- Or Sunday, January 15, right after worship in Hawes Hall with nursery and toddler care, activities for the kids, and pizza for all through grade five

Enjoy food and fellowship! See a snapshot of SUMC's generosity! Preview our 2017-operating budget! Make your pledge for 2017! Or, why not pledge right now? Yes, you can! Here's how:

- Complete a 2017 pledge card available in the pews and place it in today's offering.
- Pledge online by filling out the online Pledge Form: <http://sudbury-umc.org/give>

You do your part and we'll do ours: Stewardship made simple – Fun and Done!

## **Is There Child Care During Worship?**

Infants and toddlers are welcome in worship. Parents with young children may also visit our Family Room with visual and aural access to the sanctuary. Each Sunday, a pair of CORI-ed volunteers cares for children two years old and younger. Look for the stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex leading up to a cozy room furnished with sofas and toys and books.

## **Hearing Assistance Available**

Individual hearing assistance units are available. An usher will help you to borrow one.

## **Large Print Worship Books**

Do you prefer large print materials? Special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available in the narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

## **Where Is the Rest Room?**

A unisex rest room is located in the southeast corner of the narthex, behind the back row of pews on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Another rest room can be found just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

## **Help Refill the Food Cart**

Look for the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room entrance. Contents are delivered to food banks in Sudbury, Stow, Marlborough, Maynard, Wayland, and Hudson. Canned veggies and soups, canned tuna and meat, canned pastas and tomato sauces and baby foods always needed.