



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

a Stephen Ministry Congregation

**JANUARY 3, 2021
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
EIGHT FORTY-FIVE AND ELEVEN O'CLOCK**

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

Dr. Jay D. Cooper
Senior Minister

Reverend Lucas S. Tribble
Associate Minister

Reverend Gillian L. Walters
Associate Minister

Reverend Ben A. McDavid
Associate Minister

Dr. C. Jason Borders
Theologian in Residence

Dr. James H. Seay
Director of Music

Dr. Karl K. Stegall
Pastor Emeritus

Bishop David W. Graves
Bishop Alabama-West Florida
Conference

Dr. Joshua H. Coble
Organist/Assistant Director of Music

Dr. Jeff L. Wilson
District Superintendent
Montgomery-Opelika and
Montgomery-Prattville Districts

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2416 West Clovedale Park | Montgomery, Alabama 36106

MORNING WORSHIP

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

Prelude

Variations sur un Thème de Clément Jannequin

Jehan Alain

Welcome and Parish Notices

Rev. Gillian L. Walters

Chiming of the Trinity

The three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Introit

Light Dawns for the Righteous

arr. Hal Hopson

*Processional Hymn

We Three Kings

254

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*Call to Worship

Dr. C. Jason Borders

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: Christ the Word became flesh, that we might see the glory and salvation of God!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord,

People: For God has done wondrous things!

*Invocation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: God of light shining in darkness, through a little child born in Bethlehem, you open to us the treasure of your grace. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our lives to you with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ, the rising star. Amen.

Concerns of a Caring Fellowship

Rev. Ben A. McDavid

Invitation to Communion

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Offertory *Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain* **arr. Carolyn Jennings**
 Cathedral Choir
Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world; lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal He was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power, He will rule with truth, hope of all the nations, light of all. He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms. Love Him and trust Him as a child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **94**
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Children's Minute **Dr. C. Jason Borders**
At 8:45 only, children ages three through first grade will be escorted to Children's Church. Visitors are welcome to accompany their children. Children can be picked up at the close of worship in Room 114 of the Children's Building.

***Gospel Lesson** **Matthew 2:1-12**

Sermon *Star Gazers* **Rev. Gillian L. Walters**

Celebration of Holy Communion
All are invited to come forward and receive the elements, take them back to your seats, and partake in them as a family for a time of prayer and meditation.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship
Those desiring to unite with the church, either by profession of faith or by transfer of membership, are invited to contact Rev. Lucas Tribble, ltribble@fumcmontgomery.org.

Hymns During Holy Communion *Love Came Down at Christmas* **242**
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly **229**

***Hymn of Invitation** *The First Noel* **245**

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.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
 born is the King of Israel.*

***Benediction** **Rev. Ben A. McDavid**

***Benediction Response** *Be Near Me Lord Jesus* **arr. Lester Seigel**

Postlude *Processional* **William Mathias**

The chancel arrangement is given to the glory of God by the Worship Committee and the Flower Guild.

A nursery is provided during this service of worship for your convenience. The nursery can be found in Wesley Hall, accessed through the double doors on the pulpit side.

LITURGICAL SEASON: EPIPHANY

Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season or Christmastide and celebrates the incarnation and baptism of Christ. Liturgical color for Epiphany Day is white.

IN MEMORY OF Jan Mock Gill

Memorial Fund: *Parker, Gill, Eisen and Stevenson*

Houston Wayne Gill

Organ Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Woody Lamar, Jerry L. Gantt, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parker*
Music Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook*

Burke Fitzpatrick Chambers

Respite Ministry: *Jane Davis*

Betty Ann Britton Norris

Respite Ministry: *Jane Davis*

Elaine Ellard McDonald

Respite Ministry: *Jane Davis*

Larry Dean Dixon

Respite Ministry: *Jane Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sternenberg, Cissie Hulett, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Savage, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip F. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Goolsby, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Gary P. Nichols, Cathy Hawthorne, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook, Mr. and Mrs. James Yoder, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Coleman; Building Fund: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Auman; Memorial Fund: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Patton*

Susan Crow Bagwell

Memorial Fund: *Cissie Hulett*

Thomas Winfred Oliver, V

Memorial Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Patton*

IN HONOR OF Laura Sullivan

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. John Yelverton*

Mr. and Mrs. William Williamson

Respite Ministry: *Mr. and Mrs. John Yelverton*

Dr. Jay Cooper

United Methodist Children's Home: *Dr. and Mrs. Ben Cumbus*

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

IN MEMORIAM
Mary Terry Dowdy
December 26, 2020

If you are in need of a minister after hours or on weekends, please contact pastoralcare@fumcmontgomery.org.