

# CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **Call to Worship**

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel reigns!!

**Many: Mighty God, we gather to consider your marvelous works.**

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel reigns!!

**Many: Wonderful Counselor, we gather to delight in your revelation.**

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel reigns!!

**Many: Prince of Peace, we gather to become messengers of your good news.**

**Invocation: [UNISON]**

**God with us, we open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kingdom. We seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you. May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us. Amen.**

## **READINGS**

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

**(continued)**

When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Continuing Testament - "Christmas Poem," by E. E. Cummings**

little tree  
little silent Christmas tree  
you are so little  
you are more like a flower  
who found you in the green forest  
and were you very sorry to come away?  
see i will comfort you  
because you smell so sweetly  
i will kiss your cool bark  
and hug you safe and tight  
just as your mother would,  
only don't be afraid  
look the spangles  
that sleep all the year in a dark box  
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,  
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,  
put up your little arms  
and i'll give them all to you to hold  
every finger shall have its ring  
and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy  
then when you're quite dressed  
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see  
and how they'll stare!  
oh but you'll be very proud  
and my little sister and i will take hands  
and looking up at our beautiful tree  
we'll dance and sing  
"Noel Noel"

## **Invitation to Generosity**

### **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

**Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful resources you have given to us. Let these gifts bring glory and honor to you and beauty and peace to your creation. Amen.**

### **Benediction**



## **CAROLS, SHARING & FELLOWSHIP**

