

# The Homer Congregational Church

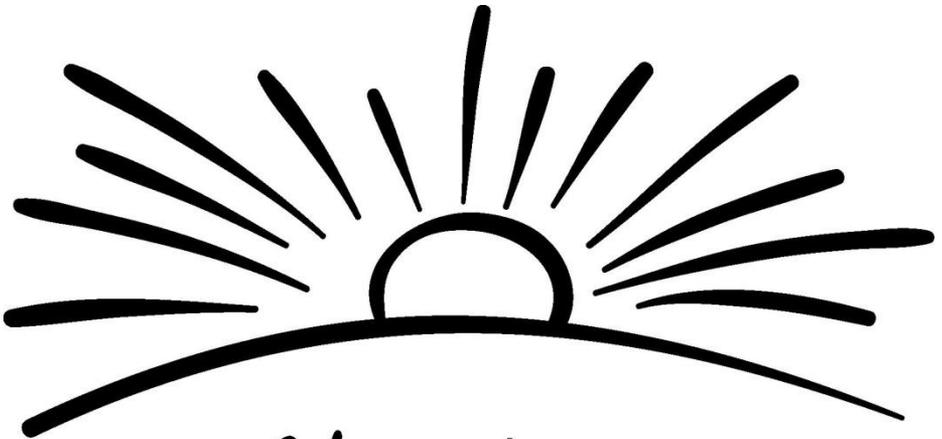
United Church of Christ

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day

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10:30 am Worship



New Year's Day  
WORSHIP SERVICE

*Gathered on the Green in 1801- Still Gathered Doing God's Mission*

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

*Ushers and Greeters*

***Worship Leader***  
Bill Masterson

***Liturgists***

***Acolytes***

***Flowers***

***Nursery Volunteer***  
Philip Zollweg

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of January 1**

**SUNDAY – January 1**

10:30 am – Worship

*Holy Communion*

11:30 am – Striking of the Greens

**MONDAY – January 2**

*Office Closed - Happy New Year*

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – January 3**

2:00 pm – Bridge Group

6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting

7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – January 4**

7:00 pm –Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – January 5**

11:30 am – Bible Study

**FRIDAY – January 6**

Office closed

**SUNDAY – January 8**

10:30 am – Worship

*Epiphany Service*

3:00 pm – Epiphany Choir Festival

# Service of Worship

New Years Day

January 1, 2017

10:30 AM

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*Welcome to this service of Worship and Holy Communion.  
The Lord's Table is open to all who come seeking the  
presence and peace of Christ. The cup contains  
unfermented juice, and we serve gluten-free bread.*

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\*those who are able, please stand.

## GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Bach

**CHIMES**

## THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

### OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God, we come before you in the early hours of a new year, as fresh with possibility as the new baby we come to worship as our Savior. Overwhelm us with hope and gladness today. Open us to a brand-new reality, to the way things might yet be. Transform us into vibrant witnesses as we proclaim your good news that is ancient, yet always and ever new. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 148

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** *(let us pray together . . . )*

One: The first stop on our journey into the story of Christmas is to remember where we have been. So we remember the paths on which we have travelled this week, from the celebrations of Christmas Day, from holiday destinations, work, shopping, and sporting events.

One: If we have moved too fast and not seen you,

**All: forgive us, God.**

One: If we have talked too much and not heard you,

**All: forgive us, God.**

One: If we have worked too hard and not had time for you,

**All: forgive us, God.**

One: If we have been distracted by the excesses of Christmas and not shared,

**All: forgive us, God. Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE**

One: Friends, God forgives us. This is why Jesus was born among us, to restore our relationship with God. So be glad, and continue on your journey with God.

**\*RESPONSE# 155**      *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o;**

**Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o**

# GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

## SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament

Eccl 3:1-13

OT pg. 616

New Testament

Matthew 2:13-23

NT pg. 2

**\*HYMN # 150**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

## SERMON

**\*HYMN # 155**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## A SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THE NEW YEAR

One: *(Lighting the first candle)* We light a candle remembering the children who were baptized this year and whom we have baptized. It beams that all children may be able to grow up receiving attention and affection.

**All: We thank you, God!**

One: *(Lighting the second candle)* We light a candle to remember all those, gay and straight, who celebrated weddings this year or who have celebrated wedding anniversaries, both those newly wed and those who have celebrated many years together.

**All: We thank you, God!**

One: (*Lighting the third candle*) We light a candle remembering all who have died this year. We light this same candle for all who mourn recent losses and losses of many years.

**All: God, grant each of us your peace.**

One: (*Lighting the fourth candle*) We light this candle commemorating all the people, near and far, who live under war and have suffered under violence and uncertainty. May you offer comfort and hope, O God.

**All: We thank you, God!**

One: (*Lighting the fifth candle*) We light this candle to remember all the marvelous things we have experienced this past year. For greater and smaller moments this light beams into the new year, that we may recall wonder and joy in the days ahead.

**All: We thank you, God!**

One: (*Lighting the sixth candle*) We light this candle for this congregation and for the church universal, that we may be light and leaven, growing in love with your presence and deepening our compassion for others.

**All: We thank you, God!**

One: (*Lighting the seventh candle*) We light this candle for the truth of struggle, struggle to find freedom from personal shortcomings, despair, things that allure us and then disappoint us. May this light stand as our full longing for justice with peace in our lives, community, and in all creation.

**All: God, grant us all a just peace.**

*Other candles may now be lighted for personal, family, or community celebrations or hopes for the new year. Come forward and light a candle. You may share aloud your commemoration or hope.*

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

## OFFERING

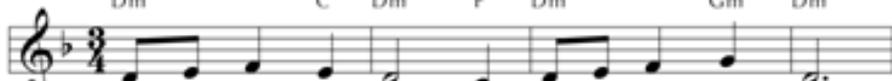
### Invitation

### Offertory Anthem

*Jesus Entered Egypt*

*(words to the anthem are available below)*

Capo 5: (Am) (G) (Am) (C) (Am) (Dm) (Am)  
Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm



1 Je - sus en - tered E - gypt flee - ing Her - od's hand,  
2 Je - sus was a mi - grant liv - ing as a guest  
3 Je - sus cross - es bor - ders with the wan - dering poor,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)  
F C Dm F Gm



liv - ing as an a - lien in a for - eign land.  
with the friends and strang - ers who could of - fer rest.  
search - ing for a ref - uge, for an o - pen door.

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)  
C Am Dm C G C



Far from home and coun - try with his fam - i - ly,  
Do we hold wealth light - ly so that we can share  
Do our words and ac - tions an - swer Je - sus' plea:

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)  
Dm C Am Gm F C Dm



was there room and wel - come for this ref - u - gee?  
shel - ter with the home - less, and a - bun - dant care?  
"Give the low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me"?

(MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925 ©2009 Oxford University Press. TEXT: Adam M. I. Tice, 2007; Text ©2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-725159.)

\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY            Tune: *The First Noel*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

\*Prayer of Dedication (*let us pray together . . .*)

**Gracious God, help us to remember that the first act of worship offered to the newborn Christ was that of giving. When they had opened their treasures they presented to him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Receive and bless our offerings, bless us as we bring them, and use them for the extension of your kingdom in the world. Through Christ. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE**

#### **THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

One: God be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: We do give you thanks, O God, for revealing your love so fully in your Son, Jesus Christ, who not only came to this earth to redeem every one, but also came to give us new life, his life in us.

As we reflect on such gifts,  
we are reminded of the blessings foretold by the prophets,  
and now experienced through the birth of Jesus:  
blessings of refreshment and empowerment,

blessings of comfort and peace,  
blessings of healing and hope.

And as we give thanks for these blessings,  
we remember before you all those people who stumble  
still:  
men, women and children who experience daily the  
violence of conflict in war-torn lands . . . .  
people burdened by chronic illness and those who care  
for them . . . .  
parents who worry about their children . . . .  
families where relationships have broken down . . . .  
school drop-outs and others looking for employment . . .  
all who view the new year with a sense of hopelessness,  
uncertainty and fear . . . .

(add local needs)

May they know the blessings of empowerment and  
refreshment, of justice and peace and hope, of comfort and  
healing and dignity. Strengthen and guide us through this  
year to serve you as bearers of such blessings as we obey  
Christ's command to love one another as he loves us.

And now as Jesus has taught us we pray together . . . .

**The Lord's Prayer** (*unison*)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into  
temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*(You are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, eat and return to your seat. The elements can be brought to you if you wish. All are welcome!)*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(let us pray together. . .)*

**God, you are making us into one body of Christ, nourished at your table with this bread and cup. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Send us into the world to show mercy, and to be part of your healing presence. Amen.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*You are invited to share a sign of peace with others.*

## **GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN # 165**

*Once in Royal David's City*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**One:** Go out from this table, from this place of peace, to serve a hurting world.

**All:** **We go, knowing that the God of peace will be with us.**

**One:** Go where there is disunity among Christians, and bring God's reconciliation.

**All:** **We go, knowing that the God of peace will be with us.**

**One:** Go where there is injustice and brokenness, to bring God's way of peace.

**All:** **We go, knowing the God will be with us. Amen!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Lord Christ, God's Only Son*

Bach

# NOTES AND NOTICES

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## STEWARDSHIP

**Thanks** to all who have submitted **2017 pledge cards**. Pledges are still being accepted and available in the Russell Fellowship Room. To date \$85,965 has been pledged: \$74,057 Operating, \$11,908 Mission.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The First Religious Society in the Town of Homer and the Homer Congregational Church will hold their **Annual Meetings** on **Sunday, January 22, after Worship**.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP

Please join the Christian Education Ministry **today after Worship** for the annual "**Striking of the Greens**," taking down the Christmas decorations.

The Homer Congregational Church will be hosting the **Cortland County Council of Churches Epiphany Choir Festival** on **January 8 at 3:00 pm**. All are invited to join in the beauty of the sanctuary to hear our area choirs and their gifts of music. A free-will offering will be received and a reception to follow.

## TECH TEAM

Tech Team Developing! If you are interested in learning more about the sound technology in our sanctuary and possibly helping with the sound on Sunday mornings, please get in touch with Joe Ford at [fordjosephd@gmail.com](mailto:fordjosephd@gmail.com). Help us join the 21st century!

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, January 10th Rachel Ditch will be discussing her trip to India and sharing slides. Join us at 2:00 PM.

## NEXT SUNDAY

Join us next week as the Rev. Craig French will be our guest preacher. Craig is a retired pastor who has served congregations in Buffalo and Syracuse, focusing on urban ministry.

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister  
Lisa Clark, Homer Nursery School Director  
Rachel Ditch, Director of Christian Education  
Joseph Ford, Director of Music  
James N. Shultes, Organist  
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells  
Gary Harrington, Sexton  
Sheila Shea, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Fridays.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org) or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0744

HCC website - [homercc.com](http://homercc.com)

Follow Homer Congregational Church on Facebook!

Monthly newsletters can be found at each entrance to the sanctuary and online at [homercc.com/resources](http://homercc.com/resources).

Our digital calendar can be viewed at [homercc.com/calendar](http://homercc.com/calendar).

Contact the office to receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*.

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and "Busy Bags" are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources>. Share with a friend.