

# The Homer Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

January 8, 2017

1st Sunday after Epiphany

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10:30 am Worship



**EPIPHANY**

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

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

*Ushers and Greeters*

*Worship Leader*  
Darci Gumaer

*Liturgists*

*Acolytes*

*Flowers*

*Nursery Volunteers*  
Mark Bertram

*Attendance*  
December 25: 21  
January 1: 32

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

**SUNDAY – January 8**

10:30 am – Worship

*Epiphany Service*

3:00 pm – Epiphany Choir Festival

7:00 pm – Youth Group

**MONDAY – January 9**

*Office Closed - Happy New Year*

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – January 10**

2:00 pm – Senior Fellowship Club

6:30 pm – Deacons meet

7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – January 11**

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – January 12**

11:30 am – Bible Study

**FRIDAY – January 13**

Office closed

**SUNDAY – January 15**

9:15 am – The Well

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

7:00 pm – Youth Group

# Service of Worship

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 8, 2017

10:30 AM

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*God of Epiphany,  
We long to hear your holy Word in fresh ways.  
Open our ears to the call of your voice.  
Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.  
Fill us with anticipation for your future. Amen.*

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\*those who are able, please stand.

## GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* Manz

### CHIMES

## THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(by Nathan Decker, adapted)*

One: This year we intend to follow the Star of Bethlehem  
all year long.

**All: Too long we've gone the wrong way, following the  
wrong stars.**

One: We went South, following movie stars, musicians,  
materialism, greed and lust.

**All: Star of Wonder ...**

One: We went East, following stars of militarism,  
nationalism, war and racism.

**All: Star of Light ...**

One: We went North, following our own visions, our own  
intuition, our own way.

**All: Star with Royal Beauty Bright ...**

One: This year we will follow the Star of Bethlehem ...

**All: The Star of Hope ... The Star of Peace ...  
The Star of Joy ... The Star of Love ...  
The Star that is Jesus.**

\*HYMN # 148

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

\*PRAYER for Epiphany:

*(by Nathan Decker)*

One: God with us,  
God revealed in us,

**All: God come to us--  
Emmanuel**

One: Long hidden within our heart's barren womb;  
Too often explained away by our mind's idol of  
reason; and so many moments kept captive in our  
soul's chains of doubt.

**All: Show forth among us, Bread of Life!**

**Be manifest here this day, Cup of Salvation!**

One: Great God of the Epiphany,  
this day reveal your salvation  
to the poor who hunger for your nourishment,  
to the seekers who travel across deserts for your drink,  
to us gathered here, who desire you.

**All: Great God of the Epiphany, this day reveal your  
salvation through the one who saves us, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**\*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**

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

NT pg. 2

**\*HYMN # 172**

*We Three Kings*

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

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

### **SERMON**

## **GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND**

### **OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory Anthem**

*See That Star*

Judy Hunnicutt

**\*EPIPHANY DOXOLOGY**

Tune: *What Child Is This*

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King.  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

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

**Caring God, with wonder and reverence, those who are wise lay costly treasures at your feet. May the gifts we bring of worship, of time, talent, energy, and material resources, honor you, the light of the world. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**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.**

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

**\*HYMN # 173**

*As with Gladness*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* Manz

**Welcome** the Rev. Craig French again as our guest preacher. Craig is a retired pastor who has served congregations in Buffalo and Syracuse, focusing on urban ministry.

# 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 \$ 95,565 has been pledged: \$ 82,257 Operating, \$ 13,308 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**. The purposes of this meeting are:

- Receiving annual reports for 2016
- Electing officers and members of the boards and committees
- Voting on the FRS Annual Budget for 2017
- Conducting any other business which may be necessary

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP

The Homer Congregational Church will be hosting the **Cortland County Council of Churches Epiphany Choir Festival, this afternoon 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 with 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

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

## FUNDRAISER

CEM will be having their **Annual Submarine Sandwich Sale**, with sandwiches available on Super Bowl Sunday (February 5th) at 11:45am. Order forms are available in the pews during worship. Please leave order forms in the church office or call (607) 749-2604 and leave a message for Rachel Ditch. **Orders are due by Sunday, January 29.**

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.