

ECUMENICAL EPIPHANY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Epiphany, 10:30 AM

Communion Sunday

Edwards Church
The Eliot Church of Natick
First Congregational Church of Natick
The Plymouth Church in Framingham

PRELUDE

Joy

George Winston

Thomas Foster, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeannine Keedy

One: O come, O come Emmanuel

All: And bless this house!

One: Come, O come, all churches United in Christ—

All: Edwards, Eliot, First Congregational, and Plymouth!

One: Come, O come, all peoples—

**All: travelers, with heavy baggage,
question-bringers, with boundless curiosity**

One: Come, O come, to meet the child;

**All: for your fears, find comfort,
for your doubts, find courage,
for your longing, find purpose,
for your hunger, find bread and a cup.**

One: Come, O come, beloved

**All: and know you are welcome
and a place has been prepared for you.**

One: Come, O Come and remember

All: God is with us now.

* HYMN 167

Arise, Your Light is Come!

Festal Song

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from Beth Merrill Neel, used with permission)

Holy God, we confess that we fear what is unfamiliar. It is easier to lock our doors than to welcome someone who doesn't look like we look, who doesn't communicate in our language, who doesn't conform to this tradition. We confess that we do not share this abundance; we do not love unconditionally.

Turn us around. Lead us to a more compassionate way of life. Inspire us. Give us the courage to change. Send us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we confess and do. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All: **And also with you!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Amen! Go Tell It On the Mountain
Combined Choir; Thomas Foster, director

Mary McDonald

WORD FOR ALL AGES An Epiphany Blessing (together)

O God, over two thousand years ago
the three magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar,
followed the star to the place where Jesus was born.
May the star that you set to shine over Bethlehem,
shine now over us.
Bless this place and all who come within its walls,
and bless those people in temporary shelter,
or who don't have shelter tonight,
that your love may be our inspiration,
your wisdom our guide,
your truth our light,
and your peace our strength.

Watch over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

MUSICAL RESPONSE

SERMON "Joy and Pain and the Light that Goes On" Matthew Crane, Exec. Director, HCI

OFFERING

Offering Invitation

Offertory

*Song of Praise

Old Hundreth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving with Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

* **HYMN 137** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Jesus the Light of the World*

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise all souls on earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He is Born

setting by Harold Owen

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Children and Youth

Children and youth are always welcome in our worship services.

The Prayground down front has a great view and quiet activities. Midway through worship, children ages 3 through grade six are invited to join in for Sunday School: preschoolers through kids in grade 3 explore sacred story through the Godly Play curriculum, and youth in grades 4 through 6 participate in our Connect program. Staffed nursery care is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service. Children will return to the sanctuary for Communion.

Ask an usher for directions and additional information.



Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Clark, Pastor, Edwards Church Framingham

The Rev. Gregory Morisse, Pastor, The Plymouth Church in Framingham

The Rev. Dr. Adam Tierney-Eliot, Pastor, Eliot Church of Natick

The Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry, Pastor, First Congregational Church Natick

Sarallyn Keller, Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care,
First Congregational Church Natick



After worship

All are invited downstairs for snacks and conversation.



Continuing the Conversation

Matt Crane, Executive Director of Hospitality Common, Inc. HCI currently provides evening adult ESL classes and weekly meals to folks in the MetroWest and is expanding to offer housing for new refugees in our community.

Stay for refreshments and further conversation after the service.



Today's Offering

All gifts this morning will be given to Hospitality Common, Inc. If you have a gift specific to your local congregation, we ask this morning that you give that directly to your church's Financial Secretary or other trusted person. To make your gift directly,

visit: hospitalitycommon.org/donate.