Jan. 2, 2022

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN: #402, “We Three Kings” (red hymnal)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

**O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples the One we call Emmanuel. As we prepare to meet the Christ at his table later, we confess our brokenness and need. We come as a people too nearly conformed to this world and its values. We confess that sometimes we ignore the rights of others, especially those who are different from us. We spend our riches on that which is not bread and turn our eyes away from images of those who have no bread. Yet we often ignore our own hunger and thirst for You. Transform us by your Spirit and renew our minds. May we find the joy and peace that can only come from seeking you, known to us in Jesus, your faithful servant. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON: “Unusual Gifts”

MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 “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.” ’

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then 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.’ 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On 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. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12What I mean is that each of you says, ‘I belong to Paul’, or ‘I belong to Apollos’, or ‘I belong to Cephas’, or ‘I belong to Christ.’ 13Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who a

SERMON: “Don’t Block the Light,” by Rev. Caroly Gibson

\*HYMN: #159, “As With Gladness Those of Old” (New Century Hymnal)

JOYS & CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, LORD’S PRAYER

 Lord, in your mercy… **Hear our prayers.**

OFFERING:

HOLY COMMUNION:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**For the healing you have given us in the broken bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you, O God. For the community that you are creating here, we thank you. Send us forth from here in love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in the presence of your spirit. Amen.**

\*HYMN:#154, “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (New Century Hymnal)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF!**

Many thanks for your generous gifts! Your love and support mean so much to us all and make it a joy to be in ministry with you. Merry Christmas!

PRAYER LIST

*To add to our prayer list please email Pastor Tim with a brief description of your prayer. Please indicate if you would like the prayer to be listed on an ongoing basis.* tim.hare@trumbullcc.org.

Rita & Bob Bennett, Pastor Tim’s Aunt & Uncle, experiencing health concerns

John, Sarah, and Ryan Tyler, grieving the loss of Beth

Family of Stacey Tall, friends of the Hills, grieving the loss of Stacey’s husband

Chip Warren, recovering from surgery

Mitchel Archer, continued recovery and help with new prostheses

Santiago Alfonso, (lives in our parsonage,) recovering from a severe seizure.