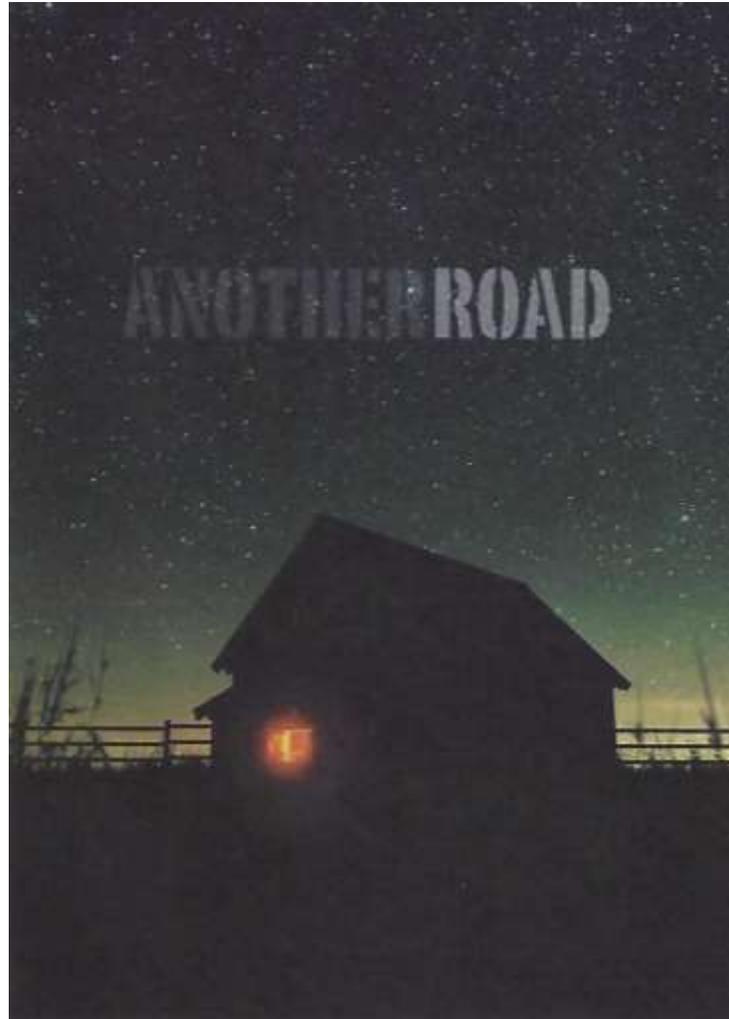


**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**36721 Lake Shore Blvd.**  
**Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291**



Epiphany

**WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**36721 Lake Shore Blvd.**  
**Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291**

**Website:** [firstucceastlake.org](http://firstucceastlake.org)  
**Email:** [pastorfirstucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfirstucc@gmail.com)

*No matter who you are  
or where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome and wanted here!*

**Ministers** - All of us!

**Pastor & Teacher** - Rev David T Herrin—216.832.3453

**Director of Music** – Jeffrey Jaskolka

**Moderator** - Diana Kurzawa

**Christian Education** - Pastor David

**Financial Secretary** - Donna Finch

**Treasurer** - Jim Lutz

**Clerk** - Judy DePasquale

**Facilities Ministry** - Charles Rumbold

**Leadership Development Ministry** - Betsy Taylor

**Membership Ministry** - Sherry Boyce

**OCWM Ministry** - Nancy Reeb

**Spiritual Life Ministry** - Betsy Taylor

**Stewardship Ministry** - Diana Kurzawa

**\* Please rise in body or spirit.**



## MEDITATIONS BEFORE WORSHIP

**O** God, nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. By the compelling radiance of your Spirit, draw us near, reveal your truth, and teach us faithful obedience to your holy Word. Amen.

**L**oving God, in the journey of life guide me by the star that leads to Jesus, that I may return to you transformed by his love. Amen.

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE ARE USING THE BLUE HYMNAL TODAY

**Prelude** ♪

**Welcome**

Pastor David

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Gathering Hymn** ♪      #182      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**\*Call to Worship** *Isaiah 60:1*

One: Christ is Born!

**All: We Glorify Him!**

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**All: Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!**

**\*Opening Hymn** ♪      #231      *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

### **\*Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

**G**od of every nation, by the light of a wondrous star you led wandering magi to the humble infant Jesus, revealing to them your salvation for the world. In the miraculous and the mundane, in union with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace, lead us to Christ, that we may offer our worship and serve him with sincerity of heart; for the Christ lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. For those who do not yet believe, we pray—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.

### **\*Glory Be to God #174 *twice***

*Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see the sal-va-tion of our God*

### **Right Hand of Fellowship — Bow of Namaste**

#### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S MESSAGE**

**Isaiah 60.1-6**

**Psalm 72.1-7,10-14**

**Ephesians 3.1-12**

**Matthew 2.1-12**

**Word with young worshippers and pastoral message**

**\*Hymn of Prayer ♪**

*#229*

*The First Noel*

## WE PREPARE TO SERVE THE WORLD

**Prayers of the People—**

*Gracious God, Lord of Light, hear our prayer*

**\*Doxology** *Old 100th #34*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, the Word in flesh born low;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen!

### **Holy Communion on Epiphany**

Pastor: The Lord is here.

**People: The Lord's Spirit is with us.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Communion Hymn** ♪ *There's a Quiet Understanding*

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy One, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth! You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our

sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Holy are you, O God of love and majesty, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself to be our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to Christ's Light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **People: Amen!**

Pastor: Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **People: Amen!**

Pastor: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Love, O Lord, until you come again.**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**People: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Gracious God, now and forever. Amen!**

Pastor: Because there is one loaf we, though we are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break, it is a means of sharing in the body of Christ. And the cup over which we give thanks, it is a means of sharing in the outpoured blood of Christ. Come for all things are ready.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We, from among the gentiles give you thanks for the gift of the Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Holy God you have poured out on us the new

light of your incarnate Word: Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives.. May this light be revealed to all the nations of the world.

*After the Closing Hymn, we make a circle around the outside of the pews for the Commissioning and Blessing.*

**\*Closing Hymn** ♪ #233 We Three Kings of Orient Are

*After the Closing Hymn, we make a circle around the outside of the pews for the Commissioning and Blessing.*

**\*Commissioning** Mark 13, Isaiah 64

Go forth into the world. Proclaim the good news of Christ. Receive the inheritance of God's promise. Live in the light of the gospel.

*♪ Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and hevean, and heaven and nature sing.*

**\*Blessing**

God, ruler of heaven and earth, dismiss you in peace; Jesus Christ, light of the world, uphold you in love; the Holy Spirit, revealer of God's mystery, lead you in truth

*♪ Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and hevean, and heaven and nature sing.*

**\*Postlude** ♪

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

If you are interested in learning more about First United Church of Christ, or becoming a member, please speak to our Pastor or Moderator.

Please sign our guestbook as you leave worship today.

All tithes, pledges, and donations, may be placed in the wooden box at the entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you!

Office Hours: By appointment

### **Next Sunday –First Sunday after Epiphany— Celebrating the Baptism of Jesus**

**Genesis 1.1-5      Psalm 29**  
**Acts 19.1-7      Mark 1.4-11**

Please pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes on the back table.

We will have a Bible Study on Theology Thursdays during the month of January. We'll study the Gospel of Mark as it is this year's major gospel. Please pick up a copy of the 4 sessions.

*Who was Mark? What is different about his Gospel from the other three? Why does he spend half the book on the death and resurrection of Jesus? How does his message speak to us today? These and other questions are examined in this four-part study on Mark.*

## Questions for Reflection

Warned in a dream of Herod's evil intentions, the magi "left for their own country by another road." What could it mean for you to take "another road" as the church concludes the celebrations of the Christmas season?



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

John 1:1-18

### Another Road

In a few days, Christians around the world will celebrate the feast of Epiphany. Like so many of our Christian observances, this one contains the seeming contradictions of human and divine. It is on the one hand an acknowledgement of the divine nature of Jesus, which was recognized by the Three Magi who came to visit the Christ Child. On the other hand, it is a celebration of Christ's appearance to all people, as The Magi are often thought to represent Christ's Gentile followers.

It is not uncommon to tell stories to try and make sense of our stories, especially the ones that hold contradictions like Epiphany. In Italy on this day, Italian Christians tell the legend of Befana. The story goes like this:

Befana was an old woman, who was renowned throughout the village for keeping the most meticulously clean house. All of her energy and time went into creating a beautiful home. When the three Magi followed the star through her village, they naturally stayed with her in her lovely abode. They told her about the Christ Child, whose star they followed. After a day's rest, the three began again to follow the star, and they urged Befana to come with them. Befana said no at once, for if she left the village, who would keep her house clean and neat? The more she thought about the Christ Child, the more Befana was compelled to see and know more about him. Quickly packing a bag of sweet treats and carrying a broom for the new mother, Befana hurried down the road. But the Magi had already gone on ahead. Although she hurried to catch up with them, Befana could not find the Magi and to this day she searches for the Christ Child. Although her search for the Child was not successful that night, on Epiphany Eve, Befana travels still, visiting each child in Italy. And for each child, she leaves a gift, because she now knows that the Christ Child can be found in each young person.

Questions for reflection:

How does the story of Befana help you understand the story of Epiphany in a new way?

How does this story embody the paradox of this season's celebration both of Christ's divinity and his ministry to all people?

How can your life be a story that tells a story about the meaning of Epiphany?