



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*United Church of Christ
Port Washington, Wisconsin*

January 5, 2025

9:00/10:30 a.m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETING

L: May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

INTROIT

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus -Kirkpatrick

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 60:1-3)

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

C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

L: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

C: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

*OPENING PRAYER

God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you

made to Abraham and Sarah. Be with us now, and empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 126

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*CALL TO CONFESSION

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Ps. 72:1–7, 10–14)

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

**Peace be with you.
And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Many Kings -Martel/Germain
Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

A Tale of Two Kings
Rev. James Schleif

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY 782 Black

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

L: This is the banquet of God's realm drawn near. Women and men, young and old, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, to share, to eat, and rejoice!

C: This table is open to any whom Jesus would welcome. It is spread for you and for all who wish to know God more deeply, to share in the community of Jesus' disciples, and to be strengthened for God's work in the world.

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God is with you!

C: And also with you!

L: Open wide your hearts!

C: They are open in God's presence in this place.

L: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Let us pray

Mighty, gentle, passionate God, as we come to this table, we remember your loving acts down through the ages; how you brought forth the universe from yourself, formed humans from the dust of the earth and your own breath, and brought into covenant with you Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; Jacob, Rachel and Leah; Moses, Miriam, and the people of Israel.

We remember how you led the house of Israel into resistance, out of slavery, and into freedom, how you sustained them with food and water in the wilderness, how you ate and drank with them on a mountain top, face to face, and how finally you brought them to a land flowing with milk and honey, where you hoped they would live in gratitude and justice.

We remember how at last you sent to us a messiah. One to gather a community that would make plain in word and in deed what had always been true; that you are always with us, that you love and care for all things, all people, and that our grace is

stronger than our power to fail. In wind and fire that community came to know your Holy Spirit.

Therefore, standing among the great community of saints beyond time, we rejoice, and joyfully proclaim:

C: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of love and justice, the universe is overflowing with your glory! Blessed is the one who comes in your name! Hosanna in the highest! Hallelujah!

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember, Gracious God, that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and giving thanks to you he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples and all shared, ate, and were filled.

When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and relatives. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, this time saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the Realm of God."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Christ's life, we lament Christ's death, and we celebrate Christ's resurrection until the kin-dom comes.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

O God, bless these gifts of your earth and human labor, that this bread may be for us bread of life, manna from heaven, and the bread of your presence. That this cup may be the cup of salvation, water from the rock, and the wine that Jesus promised to share with us anew in your realm. For we pray in the name of the risen Christ, Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit remains, blessing upon blessing, from one generation to the next. Amen, Come, Holy Spirit!

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

As grains of wheat are scattered over the mountains, and when brought together became one, so may we be gathered from the ends of the earth into the household of God. O taste and see that the Holy One is good. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you gather us into the great congregation of your beloved at this table. Now send us forth into the world with rejoicing, that we may be salt and light, and leaven in the struggle for shalom. By the strength of this meal and your grace help us to continue Christ's ministry of justice and compassion. For it is in the Christ's name that we pray and seek to live. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 139

The First Noel

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace

(lyrics inside back cover of the hymnals)

*RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

**Please stand, if able.*

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We extend a special welcome to all who are visiting with us this morning. We hope you experience a sense of God's presence in our midst. Please fill out a visitor's card located on the table in the back of Fellowship Hall, and place it in the offering plate. Activity bags and large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Please visit our church website **portucc.org** for information about our programs and services.

CHURCH STAFF

Amy Gilhooly	Communications Director
Beckie Perez	Office Manager
Brett Dimmer	Chancel Choir Director
Sherri Melichar	Pianist and Organist
Kai-i Tien	Pianist
Pru Palecek	Pianist
Lydia Linendoll	Handbell Choir Director

THANK YOU TO OUR SERVERS

Counters
Kathy Bretl, Ken Matthews

9:00 Nursery Care
Chloe and Dawn Rychtik

Coffee Provided by Fellowship Team

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

TODAY

9:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Communion Service

Nursery Care

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m.

Communion Service

11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Youth Group- Life Night

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

6:00 p.m.

Yoga

7:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast- The Beacon

11:00 a.m.

Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Church Council Meeting

JANUARY 12

9:00 a.m.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Worship Service

Church School

Chancel Choir

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Team Hosting

Brunch Potluck

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Youth Group- Sunburst

LITURGY

Communion Liturgy by Christopher Grundy from “Touch of Holiness: Resources for Worship” by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

Worship Liturgy adapted and reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from “Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,” Copyright 2012.

THE WORDS OF OUR CHURCH COVENANT PROCLAIM:

*Depending upon the teachings and life of Jesus for inspiration
and guidance, we promise to seek to
love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength
and with all our mind,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*