

Order of Worship

Words for the Beginning - Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Bethlehem Lullaby

Malcolm Archer

Steve McBride, organ

Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

Greeting

Leader: How did you get here?
Did you walk, eyes looking up, following the star?
Did you tumble and fall, tender step after tender step?
How did you get here?

People: We are here by God's grace and love's pull.

Leader: Welcome home. This is God's house.
There is room for you here.
Let us worship our gracious God.

Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of new beginnings,
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.

**People: Sometimes this is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be walked.**

Leader: On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.

People: Give us the courage to go home by another way.

Leader: Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.

**People: For when you are doing a new thing,
we want to have the courage to follow.
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Leader: Dear travelers, no matter the roads you've taken,
the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled,
there is nowhere you could go that would land you
outside of God's love.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People: Regardless of the path we travel,
of how lost we may get,
or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone.
We are loved. We are forgiven.
We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Anthem

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Praise Band

Children's Message

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: The Road Isn't Straight

Rev. Wines

Prayer of the People

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Offering

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.
You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website
and click "Make your online offering."*

A Celebration of Leadership

Thanksgiving for 2024 Leadership Board and installation of 2025 Leadership Board

The pastor addresses the leaders:

Dear friends,

you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God
for leadership in the church.

This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility.

It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us.

In love we thank you for accepting this leadership

and we challenge you to offer your best
to God, to this people, and to our ministry in the world.

The pastor asks the leaders:

Will you serve in faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ
and devote yourself to the service of God in the world?
Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace,
doing all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been
chosen?

I will.

The congregation is invited to raise their hands toward the new leaders as the pastor prays:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants
who have been given particular ministries in your church.

Keep before them the example of Christ,
who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all.

Let them share his ministry and consecration,
rewarding their faithfulness with the knowledge
that through them your purposes are accomplished.

Today we offer our commitment
to do all we can to assist and encourage these leaders
in the responsibilities to which they have been called,
giving them our cooperation, our counsel, and our prayers;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Forth

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Benediction

Rev. Wines

About the bulletin cover: Each week of our Advent and Christmas series has had a different quilt pattern associated with it. This week's theme is "The road isn't straight." The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.
