

A Thought for Reflection

“Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies.”

— *John Milton*

PRELUDE**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(We invite you to turn to your neighbors and greet them.)

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

“JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

NCH 160

A READING OF THE EPIPHANY STORY

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Leader: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

People: **“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.”**

Leader: When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him,

People: **“In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘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.’”**

Leader: Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

People: **“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.”**

Leader: When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chest, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

People: **And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.**

Leader: The Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We read the familiar story of the magi—wise astrologers, courageous travelers, generous bearers of gifts, discerning decision-makers. When we make the story our own, we realize all the things that get in our way. Trusting that God forgives, heals, and makes us new, let us join in our prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: For the times we forget to look for signs of hope,

People: **Forgive us.**

Leader: For our reluctance to leave what is familiar,
People: Forgive us.
Leader: For our attitude of scarcity that stunts our generosity,
People: Forgive us.
Leader: For the ways we ignore the power of hate and fear in our world,
People: Forgive us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, set free for our journey.
**People: We will look up, down, around and within for signs of hope.
We will risk the unknown.
We will give freely, trusting in God's abundance.
We will discern with wisdom, naming evil and seeking good.**
Leader: Let us sing our gratitude.

* **GLORIA** FROM "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"
Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

A JOURNEY WITH YOUNG TRAVELERS

AN OFFERING OF SOCKS

AN OFFERING OF MUSIC "HOME BY ANOTHER WAY" TIMOTHY MAYER & JAMES TAYLOR
Sung by Kelly Lopez and George Marcincavage

REFLECTION "DEADLY NAIVETE" REV. DR. CLARK

MUSICAL RESPONSE "O MORNING STAR, HOW CLEAR AND BRIGHT" (v. 1) **NCH 158**

REFLECTION "TOXIC MISTRUST" REV. DR. SMITH

MUSICAL RESPONSE "O MORNING STAR, HOW CLEAR AND BRIGHT" (v. 2) **NCH 158**

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER REV. MORISSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* **DOXOLOGY** (*Lasst uns erfreuen*) **NCH 17**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP AT THE TABLE

*As we serve one another, please join in singing: Let Us Break Bread Together (NCH 330)
As We Gather at Your Table (NCH 332)
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (NCH 337)*

Thank you, God—

For this meal that gives us strength,
 For this community that gives us courage,
 For stars to light the way,
 For Christ with us on the journey.

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** “IN A LOWLY MANGER BORN”

NCH 162

* **CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS

ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH

PASTOR

REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC

RICK SEAHOLM

ORGANIST

CHERYL ELKINS

PIANIST

SUSAN MINOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NICOLA SEAHOLM

SEXTON

LORI WILSON

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

SHELLY CICHOWLAS

GREETER

MATT WALKER

COMPOST CAPTAIN

JOANIE WHITE

JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER’S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

Welcome! No matter who you are or where you are on your life’s journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. Please sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

We extend a special welcome to children and their families. The sound of children’s voices is the sound of a living church! We want children to learn and question alongside adults, and we welcome whispers, wiggles, and joyful noises of all kinds. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun! We have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children.

Accessibility



Large
Print

Available in the Narthex (front entrance hallway):

- Sound-enhancing assistive listening devices
- Large print edition of the church bulletin



- **Accessible parking** spots are marked and located near the Education Building entrance.
- **Accessible entrance** is located on the lower level of the Education Building (to the left of the Church main entrance).
- **Elevator** is located in the Education Building next to the stairs.
- **Accessible restroom** is located on the upper level of the Education Building.

This Week at Edwards Church

January 5-11, 2019

SUNDAY	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Intergenerational Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Board of Trustees.....	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Guided Meditation.....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
TUESDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi.....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	Gentle Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Nursing Home Services.....	Heritage and Oak Knoll
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga.....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Interfaith Book Group	Jonathan House
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:30pm	Soup and Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:15pm	Diaconate	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi.....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal.....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting.....	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

With joy, we gather today as the United Church of Christ in Framingham, two churches worshipping together, celebrating our kinship and friendship. Today's worship leaders include Debbie Clark and Karen Nell Smith from Edwards Church, and Greg Morisse from Plymouth Church.

Our offering today goes to the **Neighbors Fund** of MetroWest Immigrant Solidarity Network, to support local immigrants in crisis.

Seeds of Grace Worship

Sunday, January 19 at 5:00pm for soup; 5:30 pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall.

The Seeds of Grace worship team will lead a time of warm community and creative worship in the season after the Epiphany. Come gather for a cup of soup and a time of sharing stories and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!

Annual Reports Due Tomorrow

Please email Annual Reports to Nicola at nicola@edwardschurch.org. The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 9, after church. Childcare has been arranged.

MLK Youth Service Project

Monday, January 20, 1:00-4:00pm

Open Spirit's Multi-Faith Collaborative is starting a Multi-Faith Youth Service Initiative, designed to bring together youth from many different faith traditions to engage in service and work for social justice. Our kick-off event is a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service Project. We will gather at 1:00 p.m. at the Children's Clothing Closet run by Jewish Family Service and located in the Saxonville Mills. We'll play a few games, help sort clothes, and then end with pizza and conversation about the next steps. Youth aged fourteen and older are invited. Registration is required by January 13, as we are limited to twenty people. Please register at openspiritcenter.org.

World Interfaith Harmony Week Dinner Celebration

February 2, 5-7 pm, in Edwards Hall

The World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, on October 20, 2010, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February will be observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week. Open Spirit invites you to join in an open-spirited, open-hearted dinner and open mic celebration to mark the beginning of this week. Bring food to share that speaks to the joy of your spiritual tradition. Bring a song or a dance, a poem or a reading—or just bring yourself! The event will be in Edwards Hall.

In the name of God and Jesus Christ, Edwards Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcomes all who seek to know and worship God. We invite everyone to join in our faith journey and participate in our congregational life.

As a community of faith we take seriously the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and recognize that although we are many members we are one. We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone. We rejoice in our diversity of views and understanding of our shared faith. We commit ourselves to work diligently to help end oppression and discrimination. We affirm all relationships founded on the principle of God's love and justice.

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. Seeking to be the Body of Christ, we welcome into full fellowship and membership all persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or cognitive ability, and economic status