

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:30AM, January 4th, 2026

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

*HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" **UMH # 400**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salvation. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today. Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would

like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved; we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:10-18 (NRSV)

- 10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.
- 11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
- 12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
- 13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
- 14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
- 15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

MESSAGE "Seeing the Light" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "It Is Well with My Soul" UMH # 377

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION UMH # 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH # 895

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH # 95

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine" UMH # 369

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.
* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



Welcome to
Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

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Sunday, January 4th, 2026



Classic Banner, Year A, First Sunday after Christmas, 1997,
Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff, Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN, United States

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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