

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:30AM, December 28th, 2025

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH # 140

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Responsive

God of life, we pray to you for all people: for all women who have been excluded from a full-fledged life for the only reason that it has been always like that.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all people who are oppressed and abused.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all people whose freedom and dignity are denied by systems and authorities.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all those who are driven away from their houses and their homes because of their conscience and their convictions.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all those who are in search of the meaning of their life within their own culture and religion.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all those who have to labour too hard for too small a salary.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for those many desperate women and men who are at the mercy of the rich and the powerful.

Empower us to take all iniquity away.

for all those who suffer, we pray to you.

Empower us to take all iniquity away. Amen.

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 advocating 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

Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt

15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.
17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."
19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
20 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'
21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

MESSAGE "Trusting the God Who Fulfills His Word" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" UMH # 577
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

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring - not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion - to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH # 240

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* 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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 28th, 2025



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

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