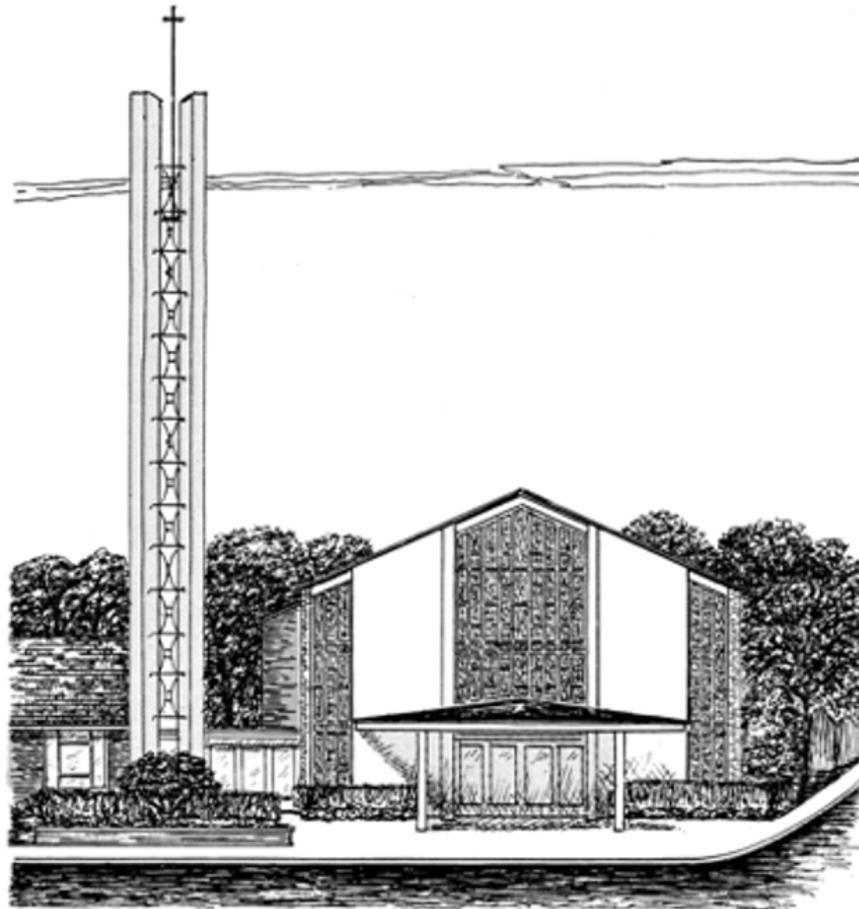


Rockport United Methodist Church

January 10, 2021



R. Jerome Crowley

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Epiphany

January 10, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ourselves to Worship

Prelude & Welcome

Call to Worship (People's response in **bold**.) (Adapted from Isaiah 60:1-6)

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: For darkness has covered the earth, and thick darkness has covered the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon us, and his glory will appear over all the world.

Leader: Nations shall come to Christ's light, and kings to the brightness of dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; all will gather together, coming to worship God.

People: Then we will see and be radiant; our hearts will thrill and rejoice, because God's kingdom will be fulfilled. We will come, bearing gifts for the Messiah, proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

O God, nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. By the compelling radiance of your Spirit, draw us near, reveal your truth, and teach us faithful obedience to your holy Word. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn

There's a Song in the Air

The Children's Time to Lead Us

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:4-11

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

We Three Kings

Sermon

Rev. Lorrin Radzik

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed Page 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Transforming Our Lives & the World

Prayers of the People

With the boldness and confidence of God's children, let us pray, saying, Gracious God, Lord of Light, hear our prayer.

Loving God, in Christ you embrace people of every nation and make them members of the same body, sharers in the promise of the gospel.

For the holy church of God, that through its faithful witness the wisdom of God in its rich variety be known in heaven and earth, Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you judge the people with righteousness and the poor with justice. For nations, rulers, and authorities to forsake violence and be guided by the light of truth, that righteousness may flourish and justice abound in every land,

Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, wise men from afar came to visit the holy family and found a place of rest and worship. For our communities and for all who live here, that we may be a place of hospitality, welcoming the stranger and sheltering the refugee,

Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, in your providence, the land yields prosperity for the people righteousness may prevail in the land.

For our planet earth, that we may dwell peacefully with nature, be good stewards of its resources, and share its abundance for the sake of human flourishing,

Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and save those who are oppressed.

For those who suffer the cruelty of poverty, and all who endeavor to transform systems of economic injustice, Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you take pity on the weak. For those whose bodies are enfeebled by disease or whose spirits are debilitated by illness, that they may be restored to wholeness of life,

Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

For any who are wrongly incarcerated that they may be liberated, and for those whose guilt is valid and imprisonment warranted that they may know genuine repentance of their sin and reconciliation with their community,

Gracious God, Lord of Light, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, because you have called us your children, we are bold to ask for what we need, confident in your goodness through faith in our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Time of Silent Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity & Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us. Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessing in your world, all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving – Psalm 98:1-6

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

People: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

Benediction

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Today's liturgy was adapted from: "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1, Epiphany & Baptism of the Lord