



# NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

January 7, 2024 – First Sunday after the Epiphany

*Worship is a time to move closer to God and receive spiritual energy for living courageously and serving others faithfully.*

Prelude

Choral Introit “As With Gladness, Men Of Old” W. C. Dix

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *(Phil1:2)*  
Leader: And so are we gathered here, uniquely in all of history, we particular people in the singular time and place.

**People: Accomplish your purposes among us, O God.**

Leader: Tune our hearts to the voice of your Spirit.

**People; Wake us to be present to you and to one another in the shared hours we are given.**

Leader: For it is you, O Lord, who have so gathered us from our various places,

**People: and you alone who know our hearts and our needs.**

**ALL: Breathe upon our gathering, O Spirit of God.**

Leader: Grant each of us a place to humbly receive and to faithfully serve that we might know in this brief gathering a foretaste of that greater communion yet to come.

**People: O Father, enlarge our hearts.**

Leader: O Spirit, expand our vision.

**People: O Christ, establish your Kingdom among us.**

Leader: Be at work even now, O Lord.

**ALL: May your will, in us, in this hour, be accomplished. Amen.**  
*(adapted from Every Moment Holy, Douglas McKelvey, 2019, p 118)*

\*Hymn We Three Kings UMH #254

\*Affirmation of Faith UMH #881

\*Opening Prayer

**O Lord of Grace and Peace, some among us have arrived anxious, some are lonely, some suffer pain or sorrow. Help us in our joys to find grace to enter the sorrow of others.**

**Some among us are rejoicing, hearts made light by good news, good health, and glad anticipation. May we in our sorrows find grace to embrace the joys of others.**

**Help us prize these moments and care for one another deeply- for each of us, and our relationships to one another, are precious and fleeting. Let us prize these moments and care for one another deeply- for each of us and our relationships to one another, and to you, O God, are precious and eternal. Amen.** *(adapted from Every Moment Holy, Douglas McKelvey, 2019, p 119)*

First Reading (lectio divina style) Matthew 2:1-12 Bible pg. 2  
*lectio, meditatio, oratio, contemplatio (Read, Reflect, Pray, Plan)*

Choral Anthem “On This Day, Earth Shall Ring” H. Hopson

\*Gospel Reading Mark 1:4-11 Bible pg. 34

Message “Tradition, Scripture, and In-Between” Danny Thomas, M.Div.

Pastoral Prayer

\*The Lord’s Prayer *(unison)*

**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.**

\*Hymn “What Child Is This” UMH #219

Dedicating Our Resources to God

Offertory

\*Response

Doxology, UMH #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Hymn

“The First Noel”

UMH #245

\*Dismissal and Blessing

\*Postlude

\*Please Stand as you are able



## ***Newtown United Methodist Church***

35 Liberty Street  
Newtown, PA 18940

Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor  
Kathy Mershon, Administrative Assistant  
John Lewis, Director of Music

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