

*Everlasting God,  
the radiance of faithful souls,  
who brought the nations to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your rising:  
Fill the world with your glory,  
and show yourself to all the nations;  
through him who is the true light  
and the bright morning star,  
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

-Book of Common Worship

January 4, 2026

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT NEW HOPE

*Our worship stems from the Presbyterian/Reformed branch of the Christian faith, and you'll find much of what you need to participate in this bulletin. If you're unfamiliar with these traditions, you may simply let the prayers of the community carry you forward. There is no wrong way to come to God in prayer.*

*We're glad you're here.*

### **During Today's Worship**

**Children are especially welcome in our worship services**, because faith is formed by the practices that shape it. Worship clipboards for children may be found on the table outside the office.

An usher will help you locate one. Parents who prefer child care will find the nursery (infant-Pre-K) in Room 204 (main level).

**Preparing for worship...** Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary. The need may arise for you to exit the service early. If so, please refrain from exiting during prayers, reading of scripture and choral anthems. Natural and appropriate exit points are during congregational hymns or sung responses. Your courtesy is appreciated. Also, as a kindness to fellow worshipers, please do not take flash photos during the worship service.

**Large-print bulletins** are available for ease of worship. An usher will be happy to assist you.

**The offering...** Your financial contributions to New Hope may be placed in one of the two offering stands located at the entry to the main sanctuary doors. Contributions may also be made securely online via the QR code toward the back of this worship bulletin.

**The Eucharist (the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion)** is open to all the baptized. The Lord's Supper and Baptism are inseparable. If you feel called by the Holy Spirit to meet Christ in Communion, we believe that you are also being called to Baptism. We will not turn anyone away from the Lord's Table, but we do invite you to speak to the pastor or a member of the Session about Baptism as soon as possible.

**Restrooms** are located on the south side of the building, across the hall from the kitchen. When you exit the worship space, turn left and they are down the hall on the right.

**Liturgist:** Deacon Bob Davenport

**Tech team:** Jim Pettit & Julie Nowakowski

### **If You Are New to New Hope**

**Information about our church** can be found at the Outreach & Information area in the foyer.

**Wifi network:** NHPCGuest      **Wifi password:** Reformed

### **New Hope Cares**

**For pastoral care** and to notify the church of illness, hospitalization, or death, please contact the church office at 636/936.2200 ([tjohnson@nhpres.org](mailto:tjohnson@nhpres.org)). To arrange for home-bound Communion, contact Pastor James at [cqjames@nhpres.org](mailto:cqjames@nhpres.org) or 936.2200 x.11.

*New Hope broadcasts our worship livestream to our website. The video and audio of the service are recorded and may be replayed. Your participation in our worship constitutes your consent for you and/or your child(ren) to have your image and/or voice potentially recorded and replayed.*

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR  
*Epiphany of the Lord*

January 4, 2026

10:15 a.m.

**THE GATHERING**

*As the people gather, worshipers greet one another, welcoming newcomers.  
Please silence electronic devices.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

+ PRELUDE

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

arr. John Carter

*This prayer is offered to help worshipers center the heart and mind for worship.*

O God of light and peace,  
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,  
still draws the nations to yourself:  
dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,  
that we may come  
to kneel before Christ in true worship,  
offer him our hearts and souls,  
and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen.

+ GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ \*INTROIT

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (v.4)

REGENT SQUARE

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

\*LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Nations will come to his light,  
and rulers will seek his radiance.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

He will judge the people with righteousness  
and defend the cause of the poor.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

The mystery of the ages is revealed;  
the eternal plan of God is known to all.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Let us kneel down before him  
to give him honor, glory, and praise.      ...cont.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Let us offer him all the treasures  
of our hearts and our lives.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 147

*The First Nowell* (vv.1-3)

THE FIRST NOWELL

\*THE CONFESSION

God of glory,  
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
to reveal your love for all people.

We confess that our sin and pride  
hide the brightness of your light.

We turn away from the poor;  
we ignore cries for justice;  
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,  
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,  
that, forgiven and renewed,  
we may show forth your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

❧ You may reflect on this prayer and offer personal confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE

❧ Greet those around you with: "The peace of Christ be with you," responding, "And also with you."

*Glory to God*

GLORIA

5  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## \*THE GOSPEL

## THE ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA

A musical score for 'Alleluia' in G major and common time. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are repeated twice. The first measure (measures 1-4) consists of a dotted half note followed by a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, and a eighth note. The second measure (measures 5-8) consists of a dotted half note followed by a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, and a eighth note. Measure numbers 1 and 5 are indicated on the left side of the staff.

## GOSPEL READING

## Matthew 2:1-12

## SERMON

 A moment for silence and reflection.

\*HYMN 15

### *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...O Christ, our light,  
hear our prayer.

## *THE EUCHARIST*

## OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

Financial contributions to the mission and ministry of New Hope may be placed through the slot of the offering stand located at the entry to the sanctuary, or securely online via the QR code on page 10.

## *Follow the Star*

Michael Sharp

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

...All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Ushers will invite worshipers to the Lord's Table by rows. Please approach the Table at the center and return by the outside aisles.*

*Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Gluten-free bread is available at the plate in the center.*

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

...so that we may serve you  
and our neighbors  
with great joy.

**Amen.**

*THE SENDING*

\*HYMN 147

*The First Nowell* (vv.4-6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

\*BLESSING & CHARGE

\*POSTLUDE

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.

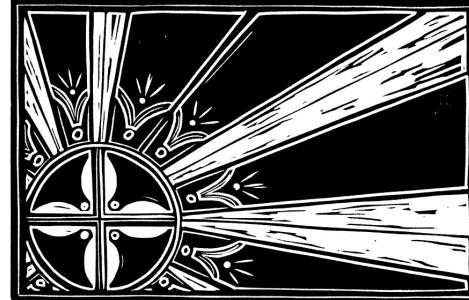
+ Those arriving may be seated.



*About the cover image...*

**Cross and Sun Rays**

During the season of Epiphany we focus on God revealing himself to the world in the Christ child. The rays, spreading out from the center of the sun, represent the dispersion of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. The cross reminds us of Jesus Christ, the one who brings together the vertical and horizontal, the earthly and heavenly, and brings life from death. The hope of this gift is for all generations in all places. As children of the light we must bear this light to those we encounter in our daily lives.



-Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, ©2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 38.

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Epiphany” means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God’s saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God’s covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important—not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world.

Traditionally, the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 6, the conclusion of the season of Christmas.

-the *Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA) (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), 203.

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

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"When Morning Gilds the Skies." Music: Joseph Barnby, arr. John Carter. ©2007 Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer of Preparation, *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2002), 52.

Litany for Epiphany of the Lord, *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), 204.

Prayer of Confession, *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), 205.

"Glory to God." Text and music: Jacques Berthier and Taize Community. ©1979 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

"Celtic Alleluia." Text: trad. liturgical. Music: Fintan O'Carroll. ©1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP.

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*Striving to welcome and include all,  
worship God,  
grow in Christian faith,  
serve others,  
and be God's love in the world.*

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James, *Pastor*  
Dr. Gay Holmes Spears, *Director of Music Ministries*  
Trudi Johnson, *Office Manager*

*Session*

2025  
Lindsay Gonterman  
Tracy Grundy  
Tara Larrew  
Greg Marshall

2026  
Jeff Connor  
Lynn Harmon  
Holly Martinez  
Stan Whiteley

2027  
Rick Getz  
Bill Lamey  
Deb Mackin, Clerk of Session  
Colleen Shear

*Diaconate*

2025  
John Cusumano  
Bob Dencker  
Jerry Dyer  
Martha Lamey

2026  
Bryan Eikmann  
Shari Mahon  
Joe Seidler, Moderator  
Amie Tilk

2027  
Ruth Connor  
Bob Davenport  
Jane Johnston  
Robin Murphy

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