

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

*Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door*

## Epiphany Sunday / Epifanía Domingo

Appearance of the Three Kings

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10 am

**We welcome all visitors today!** Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the “**Visitation Card**” found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* back in the narthex.

**Prayer Candles** are located back at the narthex for anyone who wants to light a candle for someone or something and offer it to God in prayer.

**Children** are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple “*Check-out Sheet*” on clipboard there.

### Words of Meditation

“Together may we reach the bright future we desire to light together. May we, like the Wise Magi, believe in the Light and follow it no matter where it leads us.”

~ Alice Ann Glenn, retired UM Diaconal Minister

*(\*Please stand if you are able)*

**Prelude**

*Christmas Medley*  
B. Johnson

Marina Thomas

**Bringing in the Light**

**Welcome & the Life of the Church**

Marilyn Hyde

**\*New Year Greeting:** Wave to your neighbors and exchange greetings of  
*Happy New Year! Próspero Año Nuevo!*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**People: We are called out of our darkness into light.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

**People: We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**All: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.**

**\*Prayer in Unison**

God of promise and light,  
open our eyes this morning,  
that we may see your light in the darkness.  
Open our hearts,  
that we may perceive your promises

of justice and righteousness  
fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.

May we, like the Magi,  
have a star to guide us  
on our journey quest  
to find the one who will truly set us free.

May this time of worship  
bring us closer to you,  
that the good news  
of the birth of light and love  
will transform our lives. Amen.

**\*Gathering Song**

*We Three Kings*

#254 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

**Appearance of the Three Kings**

Camilla Lomeli, Soraya Lomeli, Leah Heredia

**Children's Time**

"A Legend of the Three Kings from the East"

Marieta Flores

**Reading from the Prophet**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**\*Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

Marilyn Hyde

*The Visit of the Magi*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

*<sup>6</sup> And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Special Music

Marina Thomas, Piano Solo

## Message

**“Believe”**

Oscar Lomeli

## Hymn

*The First Noel*

#245 (vs. 1-3)

## Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Like the Magi, let us bring our gifts to honor the babe of Bethlehem and bring the light to all the dark places in our community and our world.

## Offertory

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
A. Page

Marina Thomas

## Presentation of Offering

### \*Doxology

*Love Has Come*

FWS #3059 (v.1)

Love has come — a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

### \*Offertory Prayer (In unison)

**God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. May these gifts of money, time, and self shine for all to see, so all may experience peace and love. Amen.**

### \*Recessional Song

*The First Noel*

#245 (vs. 4-5)

### \*Benediction

In 2024 and beyond,  
May you be blessed with  
*Peace in your heart,*  
*Christ lighting your path,*  
*Grace in every step you take,*  
*Wonder, laughter, and beauty.*

Marilyn Hyde

[\*This ends Live Streaming]

## Prayers of the People

Marilyn Hyde

- a. Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)
- b. Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

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.

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of Coffee,  
refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

\*If you want to bring Refreshments in the future  
you can sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or see Marjorie Martinez.

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers	Each one of us
Procession of the 3 Kings	Camila Lomeli, Soraya Lomeli, Leah Guzman
Lay Preacher	Oscar Lomeli
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Marilyn Hyde
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins, Peter Telc
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

\*Pastor John is away this weekend on a spiritual retreat. He'll return to office on Jan. 9.

### **Calendar for the Week**

Sun., Jan. 7	10:00 am	<b>Epiphany Sunday Service</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	Take Down Christmas Trees, Sanctuary & Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Jan. 8	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Jan. 10	4:30 pm	<b>Wed. Bible Study</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Jan. 11	12:00 pm	<b>UMW</b> , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Jan. 14	10:00 am	<b>Human Relations Day Service</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### ***Opportunities!***

#### **Weekly Wed. Bible Study!**

Every Wed. from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, St. Stephen's room

We are studying the Gospel of Luke led by Pastor John.

Bring your Bible. Don't have one? We'll provide you.

*All are welcome!*

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*Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available*