

If you arrive early, please be sensitive to those around you and use this time to prepare for worship.

Please, silence your electronic devices.

## GATHERING

Prelude | *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* arr. Kenneth Kosche (b. 1947)

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome

† Call to Worship

Shining for all to see, Christ has come.

Shining in our hearts, Christ still lives in wisdom, power, and love.

In this holy season of Christmas,

**Christ comes to us again.**

In this quiet after the harried days of December,

**God invites us to pause and reflect.**

Our journey as led us here.

**The Spirit is with us now.**

Let us bow down as sages of old,

**and worship Christ our King.**

† Hymn, No. 245 | *The First Nowell*

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

† Invitation

We meet today as generations have met before us to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God. Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

† Confession & Pardon

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your constant love; in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences. Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Give me the joy of your help again and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, to all who truly repent, this is God's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

† Response | *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

KINGSFOLD

*Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;  
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.*

† Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Charity Damrau

*Following the Children's Message,*

*children kindergarten through fifth grade may go to Spark Kids  
in Rooms 209 & 210 or they may remain in worship with their families.*

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

The Offering of Our Tithes & Gifts



*To give electronically, scan the QR code or visit [Munsey.org/give](http://Munsey.org/give).  
You may also mail a check to the church.*

Anthem | *Star in the East*

arr. William Allen Pasche (b. 1948)

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.  
Hail, the blest morn, see the great Mediator  
down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger.  
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.*

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining.  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.  
Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odors of Edom and off'rings divine?  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation.  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

† Doxology, No. 254 vv. 1 & 5 | *We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Nancy Bates

† Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray together.

**O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

† Gospel Lesson | *Matthew 2:1-12*

NRSV

You have heard the ancient story.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Chris Brown

The Covenant

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

Response | *The First Nowell*

arr. D. Willcocks

*Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

## THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving | *The Hymnal*, pp. 13-14

The 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 and ever. Amen.

† Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING FORTH

† Hymn | *Epiphany Carol*

BEECH SPRING

*Ev'ry nation sees the glory of a star that pierced then night.  
As we tell the wondrous story we are bathed in radiant light.  
Star sent forth from highest heaven, dancing light of God's design,  
Shine upon the gift that's given: Word made flesh now born in time.*

*Ev'ry tongue shall sing the praises of his birth in deepest night.  
He is healing for the ages; he is Christ, our God's delight.  
He proclaims within his being all our hopes, our great desires.  
He shall die to rise redeeming all who follow with their lives.*

*Once again may we discover Word made flesh sent from above  
In our neighbor, sister, brother, in the lonely and unloved.  
May we touch him, may we hold him, may we cradle him with care  
As we learn to love each other, bringing hope from out despair.*

*Gather, God, the world together in the brightness of your day.  
Fill our hearts with joy forever, help us walk the holy way.  
May your justice rule the nations; may all people live as one.  
Now we see our true salvation in the glory of your Son.*

† Benediction

Chris Brown

Postlude | *In dulci jubilo*

arr. Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)

*All are invited to stay or depart during the Postlude.  
When departing, do so quietly to show respect to the musician(s)  
and those who wish to remain.*

† Indicates the people standing in body or in spirit.

**Cover Artwork:** The adoration of the three kings (1967); S. Watanabe (1913-'96)

## All are welcome.

Each service is open for **all** to fully participate. When Holy Communion is shared in worship, **all** are invited to participate regardless of church or denominational affiliation. The table is not ours but God's. It is a table of grace and welcome where **all** are invited – even children.

**Children** are especially welcome in our worship services either in part or all of each worship experience. The closer they are to the front, the more they are likely to see and experience. There is a nursery available if they cannot sit through the entire service. For those who might find it helpful, the worship service is available on the video monitor in the Parlor.

**Kids' Worship Activities** are available to enhance your child's worship experience. You can find them in the Narthex.

*For assistance with listening devices and/or large print hymnals,  
please see an usher.*



To use the ListenEverywhere app:

Scan the QR code & follow the instructions:

Connect to the WiFi network: ListenMunsey (password: listen01)

## PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Chris Brown, Senior Pastor

Amanda Onks, Executive Director of Programs & Ministries

Justin Boazman, Director of Music & Congregational Life

Matthew Brickey, Organist & Music Associate

The Chancel Choir

Nancy Bates, Lay Reader

Allan J. Cole, Crucifer

Acolyte

Acolyte

# MUNSEY MEMORIAL

## United Methodist Church



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Second Sunday of Christmas

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

### WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

January 4, 2026

Sanctuary + 11:00 a.m.

Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church

201 South Roan Street

Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

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