

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
Epiphany Sunday—January 5, 2014**

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Gathering Music #83 “There’s Something About That Name”

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer *Ann Craxton*

Prelude and Ministry of the Acolyte

Lighting the Christ Candle: *Isaiah 60:1-5*

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of your God has risen on you.

**All: For darkness shall cover the earth;
thick darkness shall cover all the peoples of the earth.**

One: But God will rise up like the sun above you;
the glory of God will appear over you.

**All: The nations will see it. They will come to your light,
the rulers of earth to the brightness of your dawn.**

One: Lift up your eyes and look! Look around!

**All: Our children return from their far-away exile;
our babies come home in their nursemaids’ arms;
and we, we are radiant! Our hearts shout for joy!
for the glory of God pours into the world once more!**

One: *(light)* O come, let us celebrate the coming of the Light!

All: Christ comes to bring salvation to the world!

*Hymn: #288 “We Three Kings” *vs. 1-4*

*Confession: **Good and loving God, the darkest day is past;
your Light is growing in our aching world. And still we shrink
from your holy Gift; we hide from your Light; we choose the
dark. We know things about ourselves we’d just as soon you
didn’t see; we’d rather not give up our habits, even though
we know they’re hurtful; we’re scared to expose the deepest
wounds in our hearts to your healing power. Forgive us, God,**

**and in your mercy, free us from our darkness. By the Star
that points to Jesus, guide us to your perfect Light. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria Patri #813

* Statement of Faith *(inner cover of hymnal)*

Special Music

The Sacrament of Baptism *(see insert)*

We welcome Oriah Glynn into the body of Christ

**We give you thanks, Great Loving One, for the gift of this
precious person, and for your kindness, which embraces us
all through this water and through your Holy Spirit. Help us,
your grateful sons and daughters to love our sister Oriah.
Help us to welcome, nurture and befriend her, as she grows
in the body of Christ. Give Oriah, who is baptized today:
strength for life’s journey, courage in suffering, the joy of
faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through
Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen.**

Moments of Concern and Celebration (please fill out a blue card)

Pastoral Prayer and Savior’s Prayer (“trespasses”)

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology #815 with Offertory Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “On Our Knees”

*Hymn #460 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *(see insert)*

*Hymn: #290 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

*Benediction

*Response: #288 “We Three Kings” *vs. 5*

*Ministry of the Acolyte and Postlude

*Special thanks to Dick Alberini for supporting us
in our music this morning.*