

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE and BENECTION

Go forth in the light and love of God,
giving glory to God in all that you do.

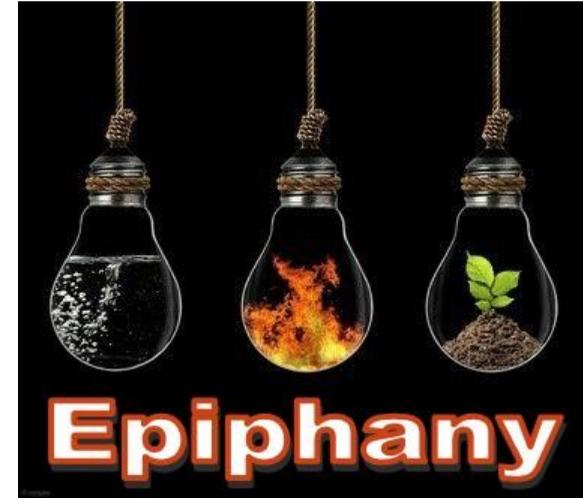
Beloved children of God,
Spirit, Son, and Father,
all the blessings of heaven are yours. **Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Our life together continues with conversation.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
23 Willow Street, Mystic, CT 06355



Welcome to First United Methodist Church.

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

JANUARY 7, 2018
10 a.m. Worship



Ministers The Congregation

Pastor Rev. Dr. Kent Richards **Music Director** Dan Brandl
Adm. Asst. Anita Parker **Ushers** Phil Jeckel, Don McKay

Link to First UMC Worship: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCMystic/>
e-mail: office@firstumcmystic.org
website: <https://firstumcmystic.org>



First United Methodist Church (FUMC) Mystic intends to be an inclusive community. The families who do or have attended FUMC, who believe in the Christian message, are welcome to be married, baptized, and have funerals for their family members on the church property with the church's pastor. They are all equal and wanted. All who worship in this church can serve the congregation with their God given gifts in any capacity.

On the night before he died,
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
he gave thanks and broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.
Do this to remember me'.
After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:
'Drink this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant.
Do this to remember me'.

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. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

God's table is open to all who wish to participate in Holy Communion. All are invited to kneel at the altar (if you are able) and to receive the bread and cup by dipping the bread in the cup. All may return to their seats after a blessing.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray

Eternal God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN – UM Hymnal 383

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

HYMN – UM Hymnal 620

"One Bread, One Body"

Holy Communion

God's table is open to all who wish to participate in Holy Communion. All are invited to kneel at the altar (if you are able) and to receive the bread and cup by dipping the bread in the cup. All may return to their seats after a blessing.

Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleans the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may
truly love you and worthily praise your holy name:
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord is here.

God's spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, the true and living God, through Jesus Christ.

You are the source of life for all creation and you made us in your own image.

In your love for us you sent your Son to be our Savior.

He suffered death on the cross for us.

You raised him in triumph and exalted him in glory.

Through him you send your Holy Spirit upon us and make us your people.

We proclaim your glory as we say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Welcome

Welcome! We greet you in the name of Christ Jesus. Help us light up the world with Prayer, Scripture, Song and Service. Thanks for coming together. Thanks be to God!

We ask that everyone put their phones on mute during worship, thanks.

Congregation reads bold print throughout the order of worship

*Please stand, if you are able, at these points

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.

**The Spirit of God
swept over the face of the waters;**

then God said: Let there be light,
and God saw that it was good.

**At the beginning of his ministry,
Jesus was baptized by John.**

The heavens opened,
and the Spirit descended like a dove;

**then God said: This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased.**

*HYMN – UM Hymnal 347

"Spirit Song"

EPIPHANY REFLECTION

Thomas Merton, monk and prophet of peace, wrote in the *Raids on the Unspeakable* what we are summoned to announce and live out.

The Time of the End is the Time of No Room"

Into this world, this demented inn,
in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all,
Christ has come uninvited.
But because He cannot be at home in it,

because he is out of place in it,
His place is with those others, for whom there is no room,
His place is with those who do not belong,
who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak,
those who are discredited,
who are denied status of persons,
who are tortured, bombed and exterminated,
with those for whom there is no room,
Christ is present in the world.
He is mysteriously present in those
for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst...
It is in these that He hides Himself,
for whom there is no room.

OPENING PRAYERS

A prophet appeared in the wilderness,
calling the people to repent, be baptized,
and prepare the way of the Lord.
We return to the water to confess our sins,
giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ,
the one who has come to save us.

**God of all glory, you look from heaven
and see us as we are—
not worthy to kneel at your feet,
not ready to welcome your way.
Forgive us, gracious God.
In Christ, stoop down to save us;
loosen the ties that bind us to sin
and set us free to love and serve you;
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hear the good news of the gospel:
As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
so God says to each of us:
You are my beloved child,
and with you I am well pleased.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Let us continue to pray

**God of heaven and earth,
we gather to hear your holy Word
and to be immersed in your Spirit.
Speak to us with grace and truth
and pour out your love upon us
so that this sacred place may resound
with joyful shouts of glory;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING UM Hymnal 761

Psalm 29:1-11

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Send down your Holy Spirit, O God—
tear open the veil of heaven
and speak to us as beloved children
so that we may hear and believe
the good news of your Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

READING

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **the earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the deep**, while a wind from God swept over the face of the
waters. Then God said, **“Let there be light”**; and there was light. And God saw that **the light
was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and
the darkness he called Night.** And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

HYMN – The Faith We Sing 2120

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

READING

Mark 1:1-11 (NT 32, 42)

SERMON

“Where is God Hiding”

COMMUNAL AND PASTORAL PRAYERS