

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 2, 2022 – 10:00 AM



*The First Congregational Church of River Edge
Welcome's you to our worship service this morning!*

✠ *The congregation may stand, if comfortable doing so. **Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation.*

CHRIST THE LIGHT

Look around you, God's light shines in the darkness. Look around you, God's glory is all around us. Look around you, Christ's star is risen in the sky.

PRELUDE

Wie Schön Leuchtet er Morgenstern

J. Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the light.

The light of God calls us here.

Come to the light.

The light of Christ shines in our lives.

Come to the light.

The light of the Spirit illumines the darkness.

Come to the light.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Bright, shining Maker of visions and dreams, the good news of your love
lights up our world with radiant glory.**

**We see you in rain and snow, in sunrise and sunset,
in the smiles and hugs and celebrations
that greet the new year.**

**Like the Magi who followed a star
to welcome the newborn Christ,
help us follow the star of your love
and bring gifts of wholeness and peace
to a world that is broken and in pain;
Share with us the boundless riches of your grace,
that we might be bearers of your goodness,
now and in the days to come.**

**In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ,
Amen.**

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Glorious God, you are nearer to us than our very breath,
yet we often fail to see you.**

**Grant us the courage to follow your light,
wherever you would lead us.**

**May we follow the kings of old,
as they followed the star to find the infant Jesus.**

**Help us give of ourselves,
that we may forsake the glitter
of things that do not endure.**

**And may our lives reflect the brightness of life eternal,
found in our savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

We observe a moment of silence

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

Russian

Sing to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy upon us.

God the Lord the Savior gave us,

Jesus Christ is born to save us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The power that brought light and salvation to the Gentiles
is at work in the world today,
**bringing grace and mercy to us
as we offer grace and mercy to others.**
**The power of the living God
transforms our hearts of stone and feet of clay
into hearts of joy and lives of justice and peace.**

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

 PEACE

May the peace of Christ, the light of the world, be with you.
And also with you.

The people offer a sign of peace to one another.

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best

J. Harding

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 60:1-6 (*OT pg. 690*)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12 (*NT pg. 2*)

SERMON

Christ Our Epiphany

The Rev. Bernd Weishaupt

 HYMN OF RESPONSE

Auld Lang Syne

**1. Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?**

**3. And surely ye'll be your pint-stoup!
and surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.**

**2. For auld lang syne, my jo,
for auld lang syne,
we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.**

**4. And there's a hand,
my trusty fiere!
and gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right gude-willie
waught,
for auld lang syne.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Merciful God,
Receive Our Prayer.

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERATOR ANTHEM

O Morning Star How Clear and Bright

J. S. Bach



DOXOLOGY

Sing to Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Merciful God, may your justice roll down like waters,
your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
May these gifts and offerings be an answer to your call—
a call to feed the hungry, rescue the weary,
and bring justice to a hurting world. Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Communion Prayer)

THE SANCTUS

PICARDY

(singing): **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosana in the highest.

Blessed is he, is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosana in the highest. Hosana in the highest.

(The prayer continues, including intercessions.)

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF FAITH

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

THE COMMUNION

All who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people are invited to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Children are welcome to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at the discretion of their parent/guardian.

In-Person worshipers:

*Both elements are in a single container at your seat.
Gluten-free options are available by signaling an usher.*

At-home worshipers:

*Have bread, or similar food item, available, as well as grape juice, wine...or a similar fruit juice.
Partake of the elements available to you, or raise your empty hands toward your mouth
in a "Communion of Empty Hands," as if you were receiving the bread and the cup.*

✠ HYMN OF PARTING

We Three Kings of Orient Are

**1. We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star. (Refrain)**

Solo

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to rein. (Refrain)**

Solo

**3. Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising,
Worshiping God Most High (Refrain)**

Solo

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. (Refrain)**

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies.**

Refrain:

**O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light.**

 BENEDICTION

Go forth as a light to the nations.

We go to follow the star of Christ's birth.

Go forth as a people of blessing.

We go to proclaim hope to the poor and needy.

Go forth as a light to the nations.

We go with God's blessings.

POSTLUDE

The Three Kings

G. Bizet (arr. Smith)

*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are the Rev. Bernd Weishaupt, worship leader;
Chayse Van Wetering, liturgist; Gene Hammerle and Vic Babington, technicians;
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music; Russell Van Wetering, greeter;
Wayne Placek, Jane Silane, Janet Arena, ushers.*

WELCOME! If you are a guest or visitor with us this morning, you are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the Narthex basket, as you depart after the postlude.

SANCTUARY SERVICES ARE RECORDED – All services and programs held in the church sanctuary are recorded and available on compact disc. Copies may be obtained by completing a *CD Request Form* available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED - Any member or friend who would like to be a greeter is encouraged to do so. Sign-up sheet will be available on the table in The Commons or please contact Russell Van Wetering directly at aprilsky@optonline.net, or 201-261-1795.

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, January 2, 2022

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt/Communion
12:30 pm	The Well Church

Monday, January 3, 2022

Church Office Closed

12:00 pm	Al Anon
4:00 pm	ATWAS
7:00 pm	Step by Step – NA
7:00 pm	Worship Team
7:00 pm	Education Team

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

7:00 pm	AA
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Saturday, January 8, 2022

8:30 am	KWIS
7:00 pm	AA

Sunday, January 9, 2022

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt/Church School
12:30 pm	The Well Church

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – January 2, 2022

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Rev. Chuck Holm, Rick Skae, Beverly Cannizzaro, Rylie Kearns, Sue Becker, Judi Schmitt, Dona Berg, Joe Corona, Adamarie Kendall, Arlene Rudd, Richard Smith, June Seilheimer, Judy Macht, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hachfeld, Edwina Arena, Barbara Carr, Peter Armstrong, Nelly Novarro, Anthony Mirabile, Carol, and Sue, Janet and Nicolas Post, Phil Ceppaglia.

Those Homebound, in Assisted Living Residences or in Nursing Homes

Jean & Victor Babington Sr., Doris & Chet Price, Chris Egner, Hilma Albrecht, Phyllis Malley, William Spencer, Joan Sullivan, Bill Finch.

Serving in the Military

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey, Andrew Pohl

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 / (201) 261-1712

office@fccriveredge.org Website – www.fccriveredge.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is **closed**. Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Bernd Weishaupt Interim Pastor	revpastor@fccriveredge.org cell 908-347-7806
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