

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship at 10am on **Sunday, January 2, 2022.**

The information for Online Worship is:
<https://www.littlefallsumc.org/onlineworship>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/>

You can join Online Worship using your home phone or cell phone.

Call with the number 646-876-9923.

Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and enter Passcode 139139.

.....

***The scriptures for this Sunday are Jeremiah 31:7-14 and John 1:10-18.
I will deliver the message titled, 'Epiphany'.***

We will have Holy Communion during Sunday Worship on January 2nd. The elements will be given to those who are in the Sanctuary right after worship. Online Folks, please prepare a piece of bread (or a Cracker) and a small cup of juice (or Water) as the elements of Holy Communion before worship.

If you have any concerns and joys and share with the congregation and ask the church to pray on Sunday, please let me know! You can email, call, or text me. Or you can submit your prayer concerns and joys here: <https://www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer>

Your generous financial support is significant and appreciated very much. We have continued our ministries with your support. Thank you for your financial support with your service for the church and the congregation. Please mail your offerings and tithes to the church office (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can give us your offerings before or after worship on Sunday or during the church office hours (Tuesday – Friday, 10 am – 1 pm).

Again, we appreciate your generosity very much.

Please see the bulletin for other announcements!

Have a good day! & See you on Sunday!

Pastor Jin

Little Falls United Methodist Church

Worship Bulletin

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 2, 2022 - Sunday Worship: 10 AM



139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Office Phone: (973) 256-0993

Website: www.LittleFallsUMC.org

Email: Info@LittleFallsUMC.org

*“A Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope,
Mission and Outreach Sharing Christ’s Love”*

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)**

Called to Praise

‡Prepare your heart and body for Worship

Welcome & Greeting

‡Call to Worship

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

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Leader: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

All: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

‡Praise Song

We Three Kings

UMH 254

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

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

Children's Time *The Bright Star and Three Visitors* Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. Some Wise Men who lived far away saw this star. They knew it was a sign from God that a new king had been born. The wise Men followed the star. On their way, they stopped in the city of Jerusalem to see King Herod. The Wise Men Wanted to ask him about the baby king. Now, Herod was a mean king. He tried to trick the Wise Men. "You must find him for me so I can worship him, too," he said. The star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. There they found little Jesus. They worshiped him and gave him gifts fit for a king: gold and sweet-smelling spices. An angel appeared to the Wise Men in a dream. He warned them, "Do not go back to King Herod." So the Wise Men went home on a different road.

Announcements

- We have **'In-Person' Worship in the Sanctuary** and **'Online Worship'** at 10 am on **Sunday, January 2, 2022.** You can choose In-person worship or Online worship to worship with us.
- We highly recommend you to wear a mask during in-person Worship to protect one another. We are following the CDC guideline to protect everyone.
- The Worship Bulletin will be sent to you by email (most people) or mail (those who cannot access email). You can see the bulletin on the church website, <https://www.littlefallsumc.org/onlineworship>
- We will use YouTube for Online Worship. We have used both YouTube and Facebook for Online Worship. Click the link to join in Online Worship. Please join in Online worship 10 minutes before the Worship Time!

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/>

- You can join the Online Worship by your home phone or flip cell phone. Call with the number 646-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301 and # Key and then press # key again! Passcode 139139.
- If you cannot join in online worship, please have Worship Service with your family at home using the attached worship bulletin. The worship bulletin includes scripture and sermon notes.
- **We will have Holy Communion during Sunday Worship on January 2nd. The elements will be given to those who are in the Sanctuary right after worship. Online Folks, please prepare a piece of bread (or a Cracker) and a small cup of juice (or Water) as the elements of Holy Communion before worship.**
- Please email Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org) if you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation. Pastor Jin will lift up the names in the order of prayer in our worship.
- Please contact Pastor Jin or the church office if you need any help from Pastor Jin or church members! We are here to help you.
- **Church Forum** - The next Forum will be at 10:30 am on **Saturday, January 29, 2022.** Please join us and share your wisdom with us!
- **Stewardship Campaign – Thank you to those who already gave us your pledge card.** We continue to receive pledge cards, so you are not late. please participate in our Stewardship Campaign with your generous, faithful hearts, if you didn't give us your pledge card, God Bless you as you fill out the pledge card and mail it back, drop it off at the church, put it in the offering plate, or add it to the Pledge Box in the Narthex.
- **Kids For Christ** – Next Meeting will be on **January 21** at 6:30 pm. KFC is a Friday night program for children. We will have KFC every first and third Friday of the month. Please encourage children to join KFC.
- **Treasured Memories** – We started a grief group in September 2021 for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting is held in Lee Lounge at 7 PM on every **2nd Wednesday of the month.** Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152 (leave message).

- **Ruth Lee Meeting – February 23, 2022, at 4pm.**
- **The Unity Circle** is starting to collect gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens to fill our snowman box. Please see Betty Caceres for more information.
Thank you for your support!
- **Shoprite Gift Card** - If you want to buy a Shoprite gift card, please contact Pete (973) 595-5765 (detroit50@aol.com).
- **Kohl's Gift Card** - If you want to buy a Kohl's gift card, please contact Allison.
- **AmazonSmile Program** - Please choose Little Falls UMC as your charity organization at <https://smile.amazon.com>. All services and prices will be the same and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the church.
- Your financial support and generosity are greatly appreciated and essential for our church ministry and mission. Please consider sending your tithes and offerings to Little Falls UMC (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can send your offerings and tithes to the church every week. Or you can send offerings and tithes for a month with a check. Thanks again for your generosity again!
- **LFUMC FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED** - Many families depend on the Food Pantry on a regular basis. The Pantry needs the following non-perishable items; canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, adult/children's cereal, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes/rice, tuna, chicken, sardines, fruit, apple sauce, juice, and granola bars.
- **SOCKS FOR SOULS - *Do your feet get cold?*** Please help Unity Circle to provide new or gently used socks to the homeless. There is a constant need. Please drop off your socks in the large white sock in the Narthex.
- **Ongoing Collection** - UMW also collects postmarked stamps, can pull tabs, Box Tops for Education, and the front of greeting cards. Items are donated to different charities and organizations.

‡Hymn of Prayer

What Child is This

UMH 219

What Child is this who, laid to rest
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

Prayers of the People (Response: God, in Your Mercy, hear our prayers.)

Gracious and loving God, You give us your hope, peace, joy, and love through the baby

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. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Called to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

All: Amen

OT Lesson Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

*This ends the OT Lessons.
Let us turn to the Gospel Lesson. Please stand, if able.*

Gospel Lesson John 1:10-18

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Epiphany

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, Church Family! I hope you had a blessed week in Christ last week. 2021 is gone, and we face 2022, the new year, which is another gift and blessing given by God. I pray that the new year is full of God's love and grace for us.

Many people saw the baby Jesus when he was born. The Magi came to him following a star. The shepherds came to him after they heard of Jesus' birth from an angel. They were not the only people who saw the baby Jesus. Simon, who was righteous and devout, and a prophet Anna saw Jesus when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem observing the law of Moses. What would they feel when they saw the baby, Jesus? What did it mean that they were looking at Jesus?

The baby Jesus was the visible God, the divine for them, especially for the shepherds, Simon, and Anna. They were waiting for God and God's salvation for a long time. They heard from their ancestors their history with God and about God's promise. They believed in God and God's presence in them, but they didn't see God or listen to God because God was invisible. They now saw God through the baby Jesus. They now saw the invisible God through the baby Jesus who they could see with their eyes. They were joyful and grateful looking at Jesus. And that was the reason that they praised God with joyful and grateful hearts.

Can you imagine their joy for the visibility of God in their lives? My grandmothers couldn't see my first daughter when she was born because we were in Madison NJ, and they were in Korea. I sent the pictures of her to my parents through emails, but my grandmothers couldn't use the internet. They heard from my parents that my child was born, and they were happy for us. We visited Korea when my child was two months old and visited their homes to see them and show them my child. When they saw them, they were so happy and excited because they now saw her in person and held her in their arms. They saw her smile, heard her cry, and touched her hands. They said, "what a beautiful girl. What a cute girl. Look at her eyes. Look at her nose. Look at her mouth." Can you imagine how much they were happy and excited when they saw her?

The shepherds, Simon, and Anna praised God with joyful and grateful hearts when they saw Jesus because God showed Godself to them in the way they could see. God clothed with flesh, which was Jesus, and they saw Jesus. Invisible God became visible God through Jesus. For them, it was a miracle and a wonder.

For them, Jesus' birth meant the beginning of God's salvation, the initiation of accomplishing God's promise. God promised them to save them. God promised them to be with them. They had heard God's words of promise, salvation, and presence, and now they saw visible promise, visible salvation, and visible promise through the baby Jesus. God's words became flesh, and Jesus was the one. They saw the progress of accomplishing God's promise through Jesus Christ. It would be hard for them to wait for God's salvation without any designated date or time because they didn't know the date and time for God's salvation for them. Now, Jesus' birth, the Messiah' birth, gave them the sign that God's salvation began. Like the kids are waiting for their birthday or Christmas day counting day by day because they know how many days are left to get the Christmas day, saying "ten days are left, five days are left." Or when they ask, "Are we there yet" in a car, we say, 5 hours are left, 1 hour is left. Ten minutes are left. They see the progress and have hope that we will be there soon. The shepherds, Simon, and Anna had hope when they saw Jesus because they saw that God's salvation had begun already. And the hope made them praise God with joyful and grateful hearts.

Little Falls Church family,

I pray that we see the baby Jesus in our lives. I pray God leads us to see the visible divine through Jesus Christ. I pray we see God's salvation, promise, and presence fully in our lives in this new year. God is with us and showing Godself to us in many ways. God's presence, promise, and salvation are with us through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God talks to us through the Bible, sermons, and study. God talks to us through the words of our loving ones sometimes, the words of a stranger. God shows us the visible divine in many ways, such as the help from our loving ones, unexpected support from unexpected persons, the situations are getting better, or God's peace coming into our hearts in the midst of troubles. Church family, let us see the baby Jesus in our lives. Let us see hope from Jesus, the light of the world. Let's ask God to open our eyes and ears to see the baby Jesus in our lives. Also, let us be the angels for people in the world by being with them, helping them, caring for them, and supporting them. People will see the visible divine through us, our love and grace, our help and support. Jesus is in us because God gives and shows us Jesus, visible divine through God's love and grace. Amen.

Called to Share

Response to Our Generous God

‡**Doxology** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* **UMH 95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

‡**Prayer of Dedication**

All: God of this day and all days! We can only imagine the darkness of the world into which you sent your son – a world that believed that salvation rested on our ability to follow the rules. Jesus came to bring light into that darkness, and into our darkness. As we bring our tithes and offering to you this day, transform them into light for the hungry, for the hopeless, for the forgotten and the oppressed. We will share his light in us! In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

UMH 251

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

‡Benediction

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” “The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.” Amen.