

## Presentation of God's tithes and our offerings

### Offertory

#### † Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### Sharing prayer concerns, announcements

### Holy Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*Sharing the bread and the cup*

*Prayer following Communion*

UMH No. 9

#### † Hymn of Response      "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

UMH No. 152

#### † Benediction

#### † Postlude

†The congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
and a Sceptre from Israel rise up,  
And dash in pieces Princes and Nations.  
How brightly beams the morning star!  
With sudden radiance from afar;  
With light and comfort glowing!  
Thy Word, Jesus, only feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
Praise, oh praise such love overflowing!  
-- by Felix Mendelssohn



## MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8533 Cox Mill Road, Sanford, North Carolina 27332

Office – (919) 499-4949

Pastor cell (919) 802-8286 | [kseymour@nccumc.org](mailto:kseymour@nccumc.org)

Worship Service, 9:30 AM  
Fellowship and Sunday School, 10:45

**The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton**  
Raleigh Area Bishop

**The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour**  
Pastor

# A Service of Word and Table

Epiphany Sunday  
January 4, 2026

Today we celebrate Epiphany, which falls on January 6 and is the climax of the Christmas season and the twelve days of Christmas. The term epiphany is Greek and means “to manifest” or “to show.” The Epiphany season is associated with the first manifestations of Jesus—to the wise men, in his presentation in the temple, in his baptism, to his disciples, and in his first miracle. Today’s lesson from Isaiah speaks of the light that will arise upon all people. In Matthew, the wise men also follow a light—a star that guides them to the Christ child, revealing to the world that this child is Lord and King, worthy of worship and praise.

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Ringing the Church Bell**

**Greeting**

**Prelude**

*“We Three Kings”*

Lesley Orloovsky

**Choral Praise**

*“Star Child”*

Barbara Lewis and Jerry Keith

**† Call to Worship**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

**Praise to the one who made the light of Christ!**

Give thanks for the wise ones who found their way to Jesus.

**Glory to the newborn king.**

Let the people follow the everlasting light!

**And bow before the presence of his rising.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever.

**Praise to the Father, and to the anointed Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen!**

**† Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, forever active in human history, we give thanks for your visitation in our midst. For the old, old story we have relived in this Christmas season, we sing our gratitude. Continue with us, God of our salvation, that we may receive wisdom and grow in love toward all your saints. May your Word-made-flesh herald a renewal among us. To that end, bless this time of worship, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**† Hymn of Praise**

*“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

UMH No. 61

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

**Old Testament Lesson**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

(Pew Bible p. 690, OT)

**Calleigh Baker**

**Anthem**

*“It Was a Starry Night”*

**Barbara Lewis and Jerry Keith**

**Stacey Burris**

**Children’s Lesson**

**† Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

(Pew Bible p. 2, NT)

**Sermon**

*“The Beckonings of God”*

**Kevin Seymour**

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**† Prayer of Confession**

**O God, our guide to all goodness, you once used a star to lead people to Christ. We confess our poor sense of direction. We are easily distracted, we get confused, and we lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ that we may follow him to you. Amen.**

**† Words of Assurance and Pardon**

Knowing that all are equal here, and knowing that Jesus paid the price for the whole world, hear the good news:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**† The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Glory to God, Amen.**

**† Hymn of Response**

*“The Summons”*

**TFWS No. 2130**

**WELCOME TO MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
~ *This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!* ~

**This week at Morris Chapel**

Sunday – Worship service @ 930 AM; Fellowship & Sunday School, 10:45.

Monday – Methodist Men, 6:30 PM;

Tuesday – Pastor’s Bible Study, 10 AM;

Wednesday – Children & Youth Night, 5-7 PM, Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 PM.

**For the good of the church**

**New Sunday School Class** – Beginning on January 11 and led by Lou Millar, this class will be using the Cokesbury Adult Bible series. The meeting place is directly across from the Media class at the end of the hall. If you’re interested, please call Lou Millar at **919-353-5582**.

**Update your contact information.** If your phone/email/mailing address has changed, you may use one of the yellow prayer cards in your pew pocket and leave it in the offering plate. Sandra Carter serves as Membership Secretary, so you may also see her regarding changes in your contact information.

**Church calendar online:** [www.morrischapelumc.org/events](http://www.morrischapelumc.org/events)

Events and activities are kept current. Visit Morris Chapel’s website or scan the QR code:



**Upcoming**

**Fellowship Dinner – Jan. 17 @ 5 PM.** Meatloaf, Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Desserts and Beverages. RSVP with the enclosed form.

**Valentine’s Dinner – Feb. 14 @ 5:30 PM.** Save the Date! Details coming soon.

**Jan. 5.** Methodist Men, 6:30 PM.

**Jan. 7.** Children and Youth night, 6-7 PM; Choir rehearsal, 6:30.

**Jan. 11 – 17.** Family Promise Partner Week. See Karen Rosser.

**Jan. 12.** PPRC, 6:30 PM. Finance, 7 PM.

**Jan. 17. Fellowship Dinner,** 5 PM. Meatloaf, Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Desserts and Beverages.

**Jan. 19. Church Council,** 7 PM.

## Keep these in your prayers

**New this week:** Larry Maddox, Linda Gallucci.

Families of Sherry Elliott, Billy Thomas.

Morgan Baker Peggy Baker Ernestine Black Sue Buie Jeff Cummings Mandy Dalrymple Peggy Danielsen Warren Edwards Bill Farwick	Casey Hall Katie Garcia Hinson Baby Samson Hinson Casey Goldberg Crystal Hall Elva Hall Dennis Hartman Lewis Hartman Bryant Hickman Edith Howard Nancy Johnson Warren Lewis	Dano Linehan Maude Maloney Landon Massa Nancy McDuffie Linda McNeill Rhonda McNeill Robert Mudd Kathy Pembroke Susie Pierce Chuck Ralston Ron & Peggy Scott Rena Shry	Donna Sloan Jackson Snipes Phil Spivey Caroyn Sykes Shelby Truelove Brantley & Cindy Turner Dave Whitney Katie & Walter Woods Bob Woolston Sandy Woolston Betty Zann
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Send prayer requests & to Pastor Kevin @ 919-802-8286, [kseymour@nccumc.org](mailto:kseymour@nccumc.org),  
or use the yellow prayer card request found in your pew pocket.

### Attendance last Sunday: 66

Tithes & Offerings as of: 12/28/2025	
2025 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 203,094.92
2025 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 206,726.95
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 3,632.03

Your gifts to Morris Chapel make a positive impact down the street and around the world.

### Serving in Worship

	Acolytes	Children's Lesson	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
<b>Jan. 4</b>	Calleigh Baker Lincoln Brewer	Stacey Burris	Calleigh Baker	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	Donnie Carter	Krystle Ray Stacey Burris
<b>Jan. 11</b>	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Kevin Seymour	Isabelle Sturgill	Jason Kilmer Dan Wissinger	Crystal Burichin	
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Krystle Ray	Drew Burris	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Gail Thomas	
<b>Jan. 25</b>	Ian Carter Callen Morris	Manuela Seymour	Inge Hersman	Justin Ray JC Ray	Janice Holder	
<b>Feb. 2</b>	Paisley Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Blair Pace	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Linda Dilley	Steve Huepper Marian Huepper

**You are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute  
in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot.**

If you have changes, let Pastor Kevin or Peggy Baker know.

Thank you for serving the good of God's church.