



SOTC WORSHIP
JANUARY 4, 2026
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

THE FIRST NOEL

ELW 300
(vs. 1-3)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession.

God of new beginnings,

**We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.**

**Sometimes this is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.**

**On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.**

Give us the courage to go home by another way.

**Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.**

For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow.

With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

Amen.

Dear travelers,

No matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. In the name of Jesus Christ +, you are forgiven, you are loved, and you are given a chance to begin again. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

See Liturgy Packet

HYMN OF PRAISE

See Liturgy Packet

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

STORYTELLING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READINGS AND PSALM: ISAIAH 60:1-6; PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14; EPHESIANS 3:1-12

In response to the readings:

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Liturgy Packet

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

The Gospel is announced:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Ma - gi from a far - a - way place
Threat - ened by the and good news they bring
Plans that change and storms that de - lay

Ra - diant star - light set-ting their pace Ford - ing wa - di,
Her - od plots to kill the new king An - gels warn - ing
Dreams and hopes left in dis - ar - ray Make us trem - ble,

risk - ing bo - dy Seek-ing the king's birth - place
in the mor - ning: "A-void Je - ru - sa - lem"
but re-mem - ber There is a - noth - er way

O We have trav - eled night and day

Meet - ing God where - e'er we stay Paths are chan - ging,

re - ar - ran - ging As we find a - noth - er way

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a with-us God,
a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys,
holding our hand through every bump and turn.
And in the chaos of our journey,
we believe that God sees
what we cannot always see:
a path home by another way.
Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God,
we lace up our shoes.
We look for God's fingerprints in the world.
We trust that there are paths still unexplored,
paths that God has only begun to invite us down.
And like the Magi, we dare to follow.
May it be so, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others.

————— MEAL —————

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Liturgy Packet

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

See Liturgy Packet

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.

LAMB OF GOD

See Liturgy Packet

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ARISE YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

ELW 314

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God!

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