

Welcome to Stanton Reformed Church!
We're so glad you've joined us for worship today!

If you're visiting, we would like to extend a special welcome to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher - they're the folks who gave you this bulletin!

Restrooms - From the back of the sanctuary, head left, pass the coat closet and go through the double doors, they're straight ahead of you.

Nursery - We provide nursery care and our loving adults would enjoy meeting your littlest ones. To get to the nursery, head left from the back of the sanctuary, pass the coat closet and it is on your right. Feel free to stay with your little one if you'd like. But we also want you to enjoy worship so the nursery staff is happy to take your cell phone and can text you with updates. We want you to feel comfortable!

Children - About 15 minutes into the worship service, children are invited forward for a special message just for them. You're welcome to join your child up front if you prefer.

Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, and high school students meet the 3rd Sunday of each month. There are loving adults in the foyer directing children to the right class. If you have questions, again don't hesitate to ask an usher. You can pick up your child after worship in their classroom.

Fellowship Time After Worship - After worship, we gather as a community for coffee, tea and snacks. If you're able, please join us.

Want to know more? There are cards in the back of the pews for you to provide your name and contact information if you would like more information about our community of faith. Again, welcome! We're so glad you're here!

Stanton Reformed Church
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stantonchurch@gmail.com 908-236-2381

Rev. Beth Scibienski, Interim Pastor
Sara Haviland, Consistory Vice President
Carole Falar, Office Administrator
Peter Tueber, Interim Treasurer
Donna Morris, Financial Secretary
Megan Petrushun, Music Director
Philip Stevenson, Organist



Stanton Reformed Church
Founded 1833

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America

Sunday, January 5, 2019
Epiphany Christmas

We Assemble in God's Name

* invites you to stand with us, in body or in spirit, as you are able.
Bold indicates parts read by the congregation.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *We Three Kings* arr. Vicki Collinsworth

Preparation for Worship

Epiphany is more than a celebration of the magi's visit to the young Jesus. The star beckons each of us to embrace and hope in the gift of the Christ. It is not always easy to find hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. Where do you find hope for your life? How do you choose to hope, even when life is challenging?

Choral Introit *Wise Men, They Came to Look* WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
*Wise men, they came to look for wisdom, finding one wiser than they knew;
Rich men, they met with one yet richer - King of the kings, they knelt to you:
Jesus, our wisdom from above, wealth and redemption, life and love.*

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for the light has come.
After a long and cold night, God's bright radiance has risen for you.
**Our hearts warm within us,
as we come with gifts to praise God.**

*Hymn of Praise #181 *As with Gladness Men of Old (verses 1 and 2)* DIX

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of life, we come to worship.
Help us to see the Christ child among us through the wrapping paper,
the festive trees, and the glass ornaments.
Help us discover the child in all the epiphany moments,
of our living and worshipping here. *Silence***

Loving God,
**Sometimes we fail to notice your presence around us.
Other times we fail to acknowledge your hands working for good.
And even more, we ignore the guiding lights
that you send to show us the way we ought to go. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Family Promise - Overnight Volunteers Needed

Thank you to those who have signed up to host dinner on January 5th & 12th at Rockaway Reformed Church as they host local families who are struggling with stable housing. We still need volunteers to stay overnight on the 5th & 12th (8 p.m. to 9 a.m.). For more information, please see the sign up sheet at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/uwn2stu> Feel free to contact Tanya Tuccillo if you have questions (tanyaandevans@hotmail.com)

Prayers and Birthdays - If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Pastor Beth, or Carole at the church office. If you would like to send cards or notes to anyone on our prayer list, please contact the church office for an address.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Shippas family, grieving the loss of mother Jean to ovarian cancer.
- Prayers of peace for Melanie Farrell, friend of many in our community, who died unexpectedly on Nov. 30th. She leaves behind two high school-aged sons, Daniel and Joey, and their father John. Prayers for comfort for them.
- The Bozzi family's friend, Greg Pardo, was recently diagnosed with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma. He is anticipating a stem cell transplant soon. Prayers for Greg, and his family as they prepare for this next step in his path to recovery.
- Prayers for Tanya Tuccillo's friend, Joy (and her kids), who is newly divorced, as they navigate this first holiday season in their new family structure.
- Prayers for the Galloways, grieving the loss of Cheryl's dad.
- Prayers for the Vandal family, on the difficult anniversary of the loss of their daughter Ally.
- Prayers for those who are grieving/depressed this holiday season.
- Susie Emery is recovering from having stomach surgery.
- Adele asked for patience, joy, peace and love for the coming year.
- A friend of Tanya's, Michael, is struggling with drug addiction.
- Karen had a fall and broke both her wrists. Prayers for a speedy recovery, and also for her caretaker.

Birthday Blessings:

Jan 5 - Barbara Tannahill	Jan 6 - Carol Hrubesh	Jan 7 - Sue Hendershot
Jan 9 - Patty Longo	Jan 12 - Kim Fraser	Jan 14 - Amelia Magron
Jan 16 - Steve Haynes	Jan 17 - Philip Frey	Jan 17 - Austin White
Jan 17 - Matthew White	Jan 17 - Tyler White	Jan 18 - Craig Martino

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Scott Clarke
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
 - Trio: Haley Petrushun, Megan Petrushun, Philip Stevenson
- Kellee and Charlie Scammell for ushering.
- Thank you to Penny Gallagher & Barbara Tannahill for hosting today's fellowship.
- The flowers on our altar are given in the glory of God by Kellee & Charlie Scammell.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Ushers</u>	Jan 12	Please sign up!
	Jan 19	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Jan 12	Pizza Sunday
	Jan 19	Betty Berner
<u>Flowers</u>	Jan 12	Betty Berner
	Jan 19	The Borea-Cerciello Family

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, Jan 6	All Are Welcome Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wednesday, Jan 8	No Bible Reading Groups this week	
Sunday, Jan 12	Middle School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Second Cup with Pastor Beth	11:30 AM

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend a congregational meeting after worship on January 26th. On the agenda are a review of 2019 finances and ministries, pledge status update, and presentation of the 2020 budget.

January Mission of the Month

Anderson House for Women, located in Whitehouse Station, is a residential program for women in recovery from substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Services include individual, group and family counseling. They utilize a holistic approach, focusing in all aspects of addiction; the physical, psychological, emotional & spiritual.

2020 Calendars - Please feel free to help yourself to a 2020 calendar. They're located in a box on the table in the Narthex.

Assurance of Pardon and Summary of the Law

Remember and be assured:

God, who created all things, created us in love.

And let us then love not only in word but in deed, as Jesus taught.

We shall love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength.

And what else did Jesus teach us?

We shall love our neighbors as ourselves.

With God's love around us and within us, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

In certainty of God's presence with us always, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

*Gloria Patri (#807 in unison)

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.

Choral Anthem

Star in the East

arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

Hail the blest morn. See the great Mediator down from the region of glory descend.

Shepherds, go worship the Babe in the manger. Lo, for His guard the bright angels attend.

Cold on His cradle, the dew drops are shining. Low lied His bed with the beasts of the stall.

Angels adore Him, in slumber reclining. Wise men and shepherds before him do fall.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Star in the East, the horizon adoring, guide where our Infant Redeemer was laid.

Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion, fragrance of Eden and off'ring Divine,

gems from the mountains and pearls from the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Page 1, regular print

Page 2, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sharing our Epiphany Star Stories from 2019

Receiving our Epiphany Star for 2020

Our Response to God's Word and Spirit

Hymn of Response Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

The magi travelled from afar to offer gifts fit for a king.
What gifts do we offer our Sovereign One?
What do we hope that these gifts will do for our community and for our world?
The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

Offertory *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* arr. Joanne Martin

*Doxology (hymn #181, verse 3)

**As they offered gifts most rare, at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's aloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

Prayer of Dedication

Accept our humble offerings.
They are signs of our commitment to your realm of peace, love, and justice. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The wise ones followed the star to find the Christ child. And we, today, still follow.
Sometimes the journey is easy, the sky is clear and the star leading us to him shines bright. Other times the sky is cloudy, and we do not know which way to travel.
**And sometimes, we follow him here, to this place to be fed and to rest.
It is here at this table that we find Christ and dine with him.**
So whether you are a follower under clear skies, sure of your destination, or one who is looking to find the light behind the clouds, you are welcome here.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of starlight and sunlight, you set the heavens in place and created all that exists around them. You created people to live on the earth and gave us the rules to follow you.
**We did not listen. We disobeyed.
You tried time and time again to bring us back into covenant with you,**

and time and time again, we failed.

We failed after floods, wars, the gifts of commandments, and when the prophets spoke your word directly to us. We needed to begin again.

We pause to pray for those places in our world that need to begin again.

At the beginning of a new calendar year, we remember the best new beginning you sent us: A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This baby was your son, sent to redeem us all. T

**Those who were wise followed the light you placed in the sky and found him.
They brought gifts, trusted their dreams, and went home by another road.**

We pray for those who search for God's presence, who need comfort and healing.

You call us, invite us, and welcome us to do work in Jesus' name.

You call us, invite us, and welcome us to shine Christ's light to a world.

We pause to pray for ourselves, that God's Spirit would guide us into this year of worship and work; may God's Spirit grow among us.

Holy Spirit, we pray that you would be poured out in this meal.

Draw us into the presence of the risen Christ through this bread and cup.

At this table, may we be nourished so that we may go out into the world and continue your work: to love, serve, and care in the name of your Son, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray together,

**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 the Meal

Prayer after the meal

*Hymn of Sending #185 *We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 and 2)* DIX

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Song of Simeon* arr. A. Morris Buchanan
*Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn. This child so long foretold.*

Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain arr. Victor Labenske