

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

John 1: (1-9), 10-18

### Another Road

Today is Twelfth Night, an oft-overlooked celebration bringing an end to the 12 days of Christmas. In olden days, it was the last holiday hoorah marked with feasting and merriment. It was also believed to be bad luck if the holly and the ivy were taken down before Jan. 5.

Twelfth Night, also known as Epiphany Eve, is an important transitional time, shifting our focus from the birth to the life of Christ. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation.”

In many cultures, Epiphany is a feast day celebrated with great fanfare on Jan. 6, with gifts exchanged commemorating the ones the Magi presented to Jesus.

They were among the first to recognize the appearance of the Promised One as foretold in Hebrew scriptures. And after paying homage to the Christ Child, they returned to their homelands via another road. (The Magi were warned in a dream to do so, as Herod, the jealous and dangerous earthly ruler wanted to know the whereabouts of this new king.)

Christ’s appearance in our lives often does that — puts us on another road that we never could have imagined being on.

It is an uncertain road that requires faith. But it is on this road where we discover “darkness cannot overcome” the light of Christ that shines on our paths. For, as John’s Gospel proclaims for us today, “his is the life that was the light of all people.”

This road, too, calls us to testify to that light. Just as John did.

No, not John from our gospel lesson, but another man named John who died in an accident in the prime of his life. At his funeral, the minister opened her homily with the words from John’s Gospel.

*There was a man sent by God whose name was John. He was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.*

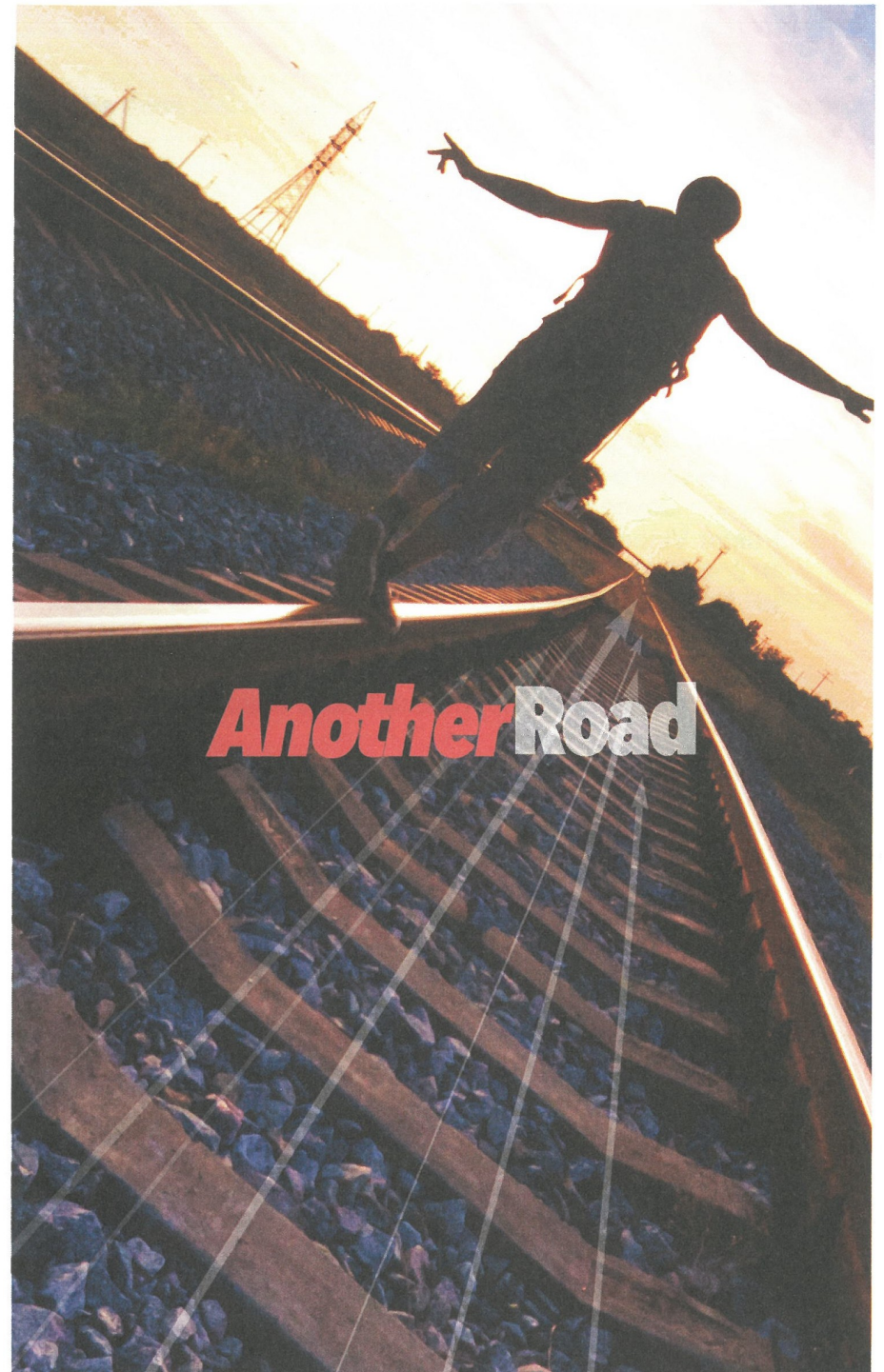
The minister then spoke how this young man led many to the light of Christ — inviting people to church, always making time to be there for a friend in need, even mentoring a child who had lost his way.

No, John was not the light, but he did his best to testify to it in the days he was given. He chose to walk on another road, always looking for Christ among us.

It’s time for us now to step onto another road this year. It’s time to see, embrace and testify to that light in our world.

For there was a person sent by God whose name was ...

*Loving and gracious God may the light of Your Son, Jesus, shine brightly on the paths You are calling us to step onto this year. May our words and actions testify to Your glory that is all around. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*



**WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
A United Church of Christ  
(708) 865-1282

**Second Sunday After Christmas**  
“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s  
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

**January 5, 2025** **10:00 a.m.**

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**Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff**

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759  
Lawrence Underwood, Music Director  
Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director  
Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor  
& Associate Pastor

Altar Flowers:  
Liturgist: Steve Scheffel  
Ushers: Kathy Marinier and Mary Linville

**Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ**  
1840 Westchester Boulevard  
Westchester, IL 60154  
**708/865-1282**  
**www.westchesterucc.org**  
**Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com**

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,  
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in  
so we can share it with others)**

**\*\*ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM  
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR  
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND  
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

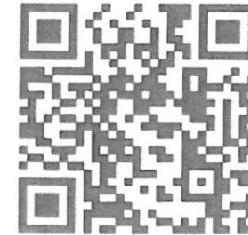
We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool,  
Which you can access through our website.

When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips,  
Our bills here at church don’t go away.

We need your help!!

Remember to give, and if it is a special gift,

There is a way to make a note on the  
Vanco page. Make clear what the donation  
is for!!! Thank you!!



**Manna news!!!** Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It’s a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees. Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dol-nics or Sue Becerra.



Our new **Website** is up and running!! You can access it at <https://westchesterucc.org> We hope you find it accessible and helpful!!!

Save the Date: a **Valentine's Family Dinner and Dance** on Saturday, February 15. Music by the Weed Wackers. Sponsored by the Music Board. More details soon!!!



**If you are interested in a CPR and AED Class.....** please see Chris Stout as soon ASAP

**2025 Calendars** for us have been donated by Conboys Westchester Funeral Home—they are in the narthex!!! Thank you, Conboys!!

Ben Linville's fiancé Meaghan will be in the Magical Starlight Theater's Production of **Cinderella**, January 10-12 and January 17-19 at the Naperville Central High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 (\$23 at the door) and are now on sale through the Naperville Park district at [napervilleparks.org/magicalstarlighttheater](http://napervilleparks.org/magicalstarlighttheater). Any questions you can contact Mary Linville at 630-710-0358.

**Doers and Goers** will be having a meeting on Saturday, January 11th, at 6:30pm in the lounge. We will be serving pizza. Hope you can make it and bring your ideas with you!!!!

Our United Church of Christ asks that we support **The Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross**. Many active clergy are severely underpaid that one crisis puts them in financial crisis. Many retired clergy were underpaid for years, and never had retirement funds. What you give literally brings hope to those who have served Christ and us. You can make out a check to our church, and mark it "**Veterans of the Cross**".

Please continue to support our **In-Reach Fund**. This money helps our own members in medical emergencies, or rent, or just to make it possible to breathe. Please make out a check or on-line gift, and mark it "**In-Reach**".

Please bring food for our local Food Pantry – they empty out just before Christmas. We were able to raise several hundred dollars for the pantry, and there was a gigantic carload of food for them. And, as with every year, please bring in **2025 calendars** and **Personal Care and Hygiene Products** for **Hines Veterans Hospital**.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

**"The thing about changing the world...once you do it, the world's all different!" - Josh Whedon**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Steve Scheffel  
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Wesley  
\*WE PROCLAIM HIS BIRTH #218  
**"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Scheffel

Leader: Come and Worship

**People:** The light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love.

Leader:: Come and Worship

The Light of Life has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

**People:** Come and Worship

Christ our Light has become flesh to dwell among us

Leader: Let us worship together to be enlightened by this Light to serve God and our Neighbor

**ALL: Amen**

A Reading from God's Holy Word Steve Scheffel  
John 1: 1-9 Page 70

\*A GLORIA PATRI #734  
**"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. Amen."**

The Second Sunday After Christmas  
THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH  
**"The Sharing of His Light"**

(Kathy Marinier and Melanie Miller, Liturgists/Lighters)

We Sing Together v. 5—"On Jordan's Bank"  
**"To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent sets your people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!"**

(after the lighting of the candles/we pray together)

**Lord Jesus, we celebrate Your glory, and proclaim You to the world. May Your light shine forth in a world that needs truth.**

**May Your light shine through us so that people can see that it is possible to become Christ like and faithful.**

**May Your light shine through what we do, so that every act**

*becomes a saving and hopeful act of goodness.  
And may Your light pierce any darkness, reveal anything  
that must be stopped, show forth what is needed to bring  
Your Kingdom forth now and forever.  
And this, in the Name of Jesus, Your Son, our Christ, the  
Savior of the world we pray. Amen.*

WE PRAY TO THE LORD #188

***“Angels We Have Heard on High”***

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Wesley

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING Steve Scheffel

AN OFFERTORY

**(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK OR  
USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)**

\*THE DOXOLOGY #34

***“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise Him all creatures here below;***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”***

\*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison) Steve Scheffel

We recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love.

May our offerings distribute this love to the world:

the small world we inhabit with the suffering people we know;

the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed.

THE MEDITATION— Pastor Wesley

***“The Light of Life has Comes”***

\*WE GIVE HIM OUR PRAISE #233

***“We Three Kings of Orient Are”***

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION Pastor Wesley

# We Three Kings of Orient Are 233

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.



# 188 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship 10 am  
Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship  
Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

## BIRTHDAYS THRU 1/12/25

1/5 Peggy Ruiz, Ted Stanger

1/10 Cheryl Norton

1/12 Barbara Boyd

## ANNIVERSARIES THRU 1/12/25

1/8 Frank and Lou Bender 59 years

## THINKING AHEAD...

**Sassy Stitches**—3rd Tuesday of the month from 1pm to 3pm

**Women's Book Club**— Meets on January 27th at Panera in Westchester. Call Barb Mills if you would like to join us.

**Annual Reports** are due on January 6th. Please have them in by this date!

**Annual Meeting** is on January 26th

**Valentine's Dance** is on February 15th. Tickets are on sale NOW through February 9th



We grieve with the Powers and Casey Families in the death of Kim Powers. Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers. Services for her will be in the New Year.



**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:**

Lou Bender, Melanie Miller, Bettyann Richeson, Isabella Brumwell, Doris Blomberg, Jim Barker, Wayne Scharlach, Allan Boyd, John Mika, Lorraine Feeney, Cindy Cox, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Bill & Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Donna Hansen, Chuck Yeiser, Linda Belice, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Marilyn Sinde, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Barb Sweazey, James Hixon, Jeanie Rowe, Aldona Kitt, Judy Frandsen, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy



**FRIENDS IN PRAYERS:**

Joyce Barbee, Andee Brown-Roth, Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Sherri Cozzi, Drake Dennis/Family, Bill Ernst, Father Neil Fackler, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Ann Franz, Herman Goodloe, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Frank Kriz, Mary Ann, Larry, Julie McGee, Julie McLean (mom to Nancy McLean), Frieda McKinnon, Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Gary Schultz, John Symiakos, Anthony Taylor, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Jr., Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman, Adam Zellman

**OUR MILITARY:**

Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler (Ft. Bragg, NC), Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks -Peace Corp. South Africa

**HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term:**

Caroline Long—Rush Copley, Aurora; Allen Meskan—Marian Joy; Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Sara Zellman—the Pearl, Hinsdale; Joseph Mills Jr.—rehab in Tacoma; Marylu Mills - in Hospice, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

CHRISTMAS

218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain (Unison)*

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

*Parts*

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*to Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: John W. Work (1872-1925)  
MUSIC: African-American spiritual

GO, TELL IT  
Irregular