

The First Noel

Old Orchard Church

January 9, 2011 – 10:15-11:50 a.m.



The Epiphany of God  
Third Sunday of Christmas

# Celebrating the Revealing of God's Light to the World in Jesus

Blessed be Mary's Child,  
This infant obscure,  
For it is he who is drawing together  
One New Humanity in the world,  
The redeemed in every place  
Who trust him and call on his name.

Blessed be God who reveals his Light  
To the Gentile nations lost in their own confusions;  
Blessed be God who defeats the powers of evil  
Raised up to destroy this Child and his offspring.

Thanks be to God that in this Savior-baby,  
The chaos and rebellion of Eden begins to be undone,  
And peace and goodness become possible again.  
Thanks be to God for his indescribable Gift.  
Alleluia!



## Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-23

## Sermon

Matthew 7:7-11

*Russ Tamm, seminary intern, preaching*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shined the light of knowledge upon the world;  
for thereby they that worshipped the stars  
were instructed by a star to worship Thee,  
The Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee,  
the Dayspring from on high.  
O Lord, glory be to thee.  
Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent,  
and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach.  
Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him.  
The Magi make their way to Him by a star.  
For a new child has been born for us,  
The God before all ages.

—Ancient prayer of the Eastern Church



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**