

# **THE VOICE of *Second Church***

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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January 2021



## **WORSHIP ON OUR WEBSITE SUNDAY, 10 AM**

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*Find us on Facebook!*

# THE VOICE

*We warmly welcome everyone to celebrate God’s love by joining in dynamic worship, creating genuine community, and serving all with justice and respect.*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January, 2021

<b>Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>Lectionary</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill</b>	<b>One Plus One</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	Curator’s Corner	<b>Music Notes</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
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## MINISTER’S MESSAGE

*“Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making the Divine home with men and women! They’re God’s people, God is their God. God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone. Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate.” Revelation 21:4-8*

Beloved,

Another year has now come and gone. For some this is good news and for others, there remains a sad sorrow. You have experienced much over 2020, including the transition of a beloved minister, the onset of virtual worship services and, most importantly, the terrifying arrival of a world-wide pandemic, a scourge which has affected everyone. Of course, this new year will also bring a long-awaited, settled minister to join you in your journey onward and upward! I will rejoice with you at that time, for this will be good news, indeed. Until then, we remain together, united in this ministry of service, continuing to grow, thrive, learn, and trust. I am so happy to venture into another calendar year alongside such humble, trusting and joyful people!

May I remind you that you are not alone - you have one another to provide encouragement, the model of Jesus to consider, and the Spirit of Life Itself to guide, comfort and to bring hope. Happily, the sacred Scriptures are also available to guide the church along through the wise input of many gentle and committed souls. In light of this, you will not fail in the stated mission of this church which is to do the work of God in this place, at this time. You see, in Christ everything can be new. Regrets refashioned, debts repaid, relationships mended, tears wiped away, sadness healthily navigated, obstacles engaged. You can count on that. Write it down, “each word dependable and accurate.” May you make it part of your story in 2021, and beyond.

*With Affection, Pastor Wayne*

**One Plus One Virtual Gathering:** It has been a while to say the least, but we’ve got to re-connect a bit. Join us for a relaxing winter evening hour together. Let's catch up. Bring your favorite beverage & snack to our Zoom party! Date TBA. Contact the church office if you’re not on our list but would like to be included in the invite.

# SELF HELP DAY

at 2nd Church

January 16, 2021, 9 to noon

The friends and family of 2<sup>nd</sup> Church are blessed with many talents. On **January 16<sup>th</sup>** we hope to have you share your talents as we gather at the Church to work on a few projects to improve our church building. These projects are simple and can be accomplished by many. **Precautions:** Rest assured, individuals will be appropriately spaced within the church, face masks are a must, and hand washing/sanitizing are also recommended. If you have one hour or more, come on down and lend a hand. We have painting projects and cleaning projects. We look forward to seeing **YOU!** Any questions? call the Church Office. Please let us know if you're planning to attend so we can plan out the projects and supplies.

*Many Thanks*  
*Your Facilities Committee*

## MUSIC NOTES

I don't go into the Choir Room much these days, perhaps once a month on a Sunday morning, for not more than a minute or two. I was in there a couple weeks ago, in early December, and looked around a little more closely. The photo that accompanies this article summarizes and symbolizes what I was thinking.

Well, it wasn't "I need a coffee break, right now!" Nor was it to "Keep Calm and Carry On."



First of all, the meaning is more in the coffee mug itself, rather than its contents or slogan, so I'll explain. It's a souvenir, but as souvenirs go, it's more genuine than most. For one thing,

it was made in Scotland and not China. More significantly, I bought it in the gift shop of the Churchill War Rooms, a historical site and museum in the center of London, diagonally across Parliament Square from Big Ben.

The War Rooms were originally called the Cabinet War Rooms, and were built in an underground bunker in 1939, the beginning of WWII in Europe. In the early 2000's, part of the subterranean space was renovated and became a museum of the life of Winston Churchill, and the entire complex was renamed the Churchill War Rooms.

The Cabinet War Rooms, reinforced with concrete and deep under London streets and buildings, were the command center for the British government and military during the War. There are areas for radio and telephone communication, a map room, secretarial offices, sleeping space, even a bedroom for Churchill. Two weeks after Japan surrendered, in August 1945, the lights were turned off, and the doors were locked. The rooms remain, even today, in exactly the same state—same layout, same furniture and equipment, same maps on the walls and spread out on tables—as they were when the doors were closed.

That's what struck me about our Choir Room. On the small table by the door is a Lenten anthem, "Depth of Mercy," waiting to be sung. Next to the keyboard is an Easter anthem, waiting to be rehearsed. The jar of cellophane-wrapped Lifesaver mints is still full. On March 8, we turned out the lights, shut the door, and have yet to return.

My more hopeful thoughts are symbolized by the coffee rolls, which are *Lussekatte*, or "Lucia buns," part of the Scandinavian tradition of "St. Lucia Day," marking the return of light, that is, the hours of daylight growing longer. The observance also includes the eldest daughter in a family, dressed in a white robe and crowned with candles (usually electric, these days), serving the fragrant, warm *Lussekatte* to the rest of her family.

The buns in the photo are not souvenirs. I baked them on December 21<sup>st</sup>, the morning I started writing this article. It was a week too late for Lucia Day

(December 13<sup>th</sup>), but, nonetheless, the Winter Solstice. (December 13 was the date of the solstice in the old calendrical system. Still, did you know that on December 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>, our sunset begins to get later, minute by minute – but so does sunrise, until December 21).

We don't even have to hope or have faith that the daylight will get longer, it just will, as ordained by the laws of nature. And by the end of January, we'll really notice it. We'll "carry on" through February, and into spring, with a COVID vaccine more widely available. I'm not convinced that we'll sing that Easter anthem in April (I'm still more a realist than a Pollyanna), but I have hope for a pickup choir late in the summer and/or rehearsals resuming in the Fall. For now, I send New Year greetings to you all, from a distance. I hope you're tuning in on Sunday mornings!

*Bill MacPherson*  
*Director of Music*

## OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry will be "open for business" to Attleboro residents on **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, cereals, real fruit juices, canned fruit, baked beans, tuna, spam, peanut butter, hearty soups, corned beef hash, detergent, toiletries, and female hygiene products are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the church office or kitchen for the time being. Contact: Betsey Pray, [rlpbpp@verizon.net](mailto:rlpbpp@verizon.net)

The Family Café is temporarily closed. Contact: Linda Wiswall, [wiswalllinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiswalllinda@gmail.com)

This year's Christmas season's **Giving Tree** will be up until **January 10, 2021**. Please choose one of the following:

- Monetary donation for **UNICEF**.
- A well stocked, good quality backpack for **School on Wheels**. Try working as a team and sharing the expenses for the backpack supplies with a few

other congregation members. There will be a sample backpack on display & printed lists of supplies needed in the office. See list below.

[janbblair@aol.com](mailto:janbblair@aol.com)

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

Why is there a **Black Lives Matter** sign outside of Second Congregational Church?

You may have noticed a Black Lives Matter sign in front of Second Church. Why is it there? What does it mean? Who does it speak for? How should you feel about it? Is it too controversial for us? How long will it be there?

Some answers and my thoughts

The sign is there because the Church Council (after discussion) voted to put it there as an expression of solidarity with a sizeable minority in our society that is oppressed and targeted for violence. This has been true practically forever, but recent tragic events have brought the topic to the fore.

Who does the sign speak for? It speaks for Second Church as a body (though not for individual members) and for the United Church of Christ. Below the slogan the sign reads: [ucc.org](http://ucc.org). There one will find this article describing the UCC's position:

[https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_black\\_lives\\_matter](https://www.ucc.org/justice_black_lives_matter). This is the message that the UCC means those three words on the sign to convey.

How should you feel about the sign? Well, that finally is up to you. I know some have rejoiced, while some have complained that the BLM slogan has been hijacked by people with radical agendas. BLM has become a magnet for political passion. And there is no shortage of political passion these days.

Perhaps this makes BLM a problematic statement for the church to make? But silence in the face of injustice is problematic too. Our denomination has a centuries-old tradition of being in the forefront of social justice issues. And our religion has never been free of rabble rousers who turn over money-changers' tables and nail their 95 Theses to the church door.

How long will the sign be on display? Until the Church Council decides to take it down, or until justice reigns and oppression ceases. Whichever comes first.

*Michael Touloumtzis*

*(Micheal has been a Second Church member since 1983 and attended the recent racial and social justice Zoom meetings at which this topic was discussed.)*

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. We will be putting away the Giving Tree, and addressing any concerns. Contact: Janet Blair,

The average age of a homeless person in Massachusetts is **8**

Last year Massachusetts public schools identified **24,000** students impacted by homelessness.

**HELP PROVIDE SCHOOL ESSENTIALS TO LOCAL STUDENTS**

**NEEDED**

- Quality backpacks for boys & girls K-12 (size 17" or larger to fit needed supplies and a lunchbox)
- Large Pencil Boxes
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Hand Sanitizer
- Large Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt Children's Scissors (must be blunt)
- Large Pencil Sharpeners (with cover)
- Pens (blue or black)
- Washable Markers Broad Tip (8 pack) (must be washable)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Red Pens
- Highlighters
- Flexible Plastic Rulers
- Index Cards (100 pack)
- Calculators (square root & scientific)
- Shiny Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Single Subject Notebooks (wide ruled)
- 3-Holed, Lined Paper (wide ruled)
- 1" Binders
- Binder Dividers

New books for all grade levels (k-12). Classics or appropriate subject matter.

**The mission of School on Wheels of MA is to promote the academic, social and emotional growth of students impacted by homelessness.**



Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**  
for kids impacted by homelessness



**NEW BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED**

**Questions?**  
[Bfox@sowma.org](mailto:Bfox@sowma.org)  
**(508) 587-9091**

**THANK YOU!!**



Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness

100 Laurel Street  
Suite 121  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
508. 587. 9091  
[WWW.SOWMA.ORG](http://WWW.SOWMA.ORG)



I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to the new beginnings that 2021 can bring! It was wonderful to connect with children and families throughout the season in virtual Sunday School and through receiving notes about the faith formation you were doing as a family with the Advent resource kits distributed to over 35 children and youth.

As we head into the new year, we are starting with a two-week break from Sunday School on December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow kids and families to have a well-deserved virtual learning pause during school vacation. If you would like resources to use as a family during any of the school vacations please let me know.

Beginning January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am, we will be starting a series of lessons on the Beatitudes specially designed by Illustrated Ministry to be used in a virtual format.

**Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>:** To Be Blessed  
Matthew 4:23-5:12 Participants will become familiar with the context of the Beatitudes within the Sermon on the Mount. They will be able to picture the kingdom of God as a reflection of the way the world works when we create communities of love and justice. They will be able to contrast a mentality of scarcity with the reality of abundance.

**Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Beatitudes  
Matthew 4:23-5:12 Participants will recognize the setting of the Sermon on the Mount and associate the title with the teachings of Jesus. They will become familiar with the structure of a beatitude, a blessing and a promise. They will apply the structure of a beatitude to everyday life, contemplating what areas of our lives seem mundane, unimportant, or unfortunate and how God might see

those areas differently.  
**Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>:** Blessed are the Poor in Spirit  
Matthew 5:3 Participants will encounter the first blessing and promise of the Beatitudes. They will explore the meaning of “poor in spirit” as it relates to our physical poverty and emotional burdens. Participants will hear a grown-up say that God blesses all of their feelings, even when they are not feeling good. They will practice relating to the world around them with a posture of open hands.

**Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Blessed are those who Mourn  
Matthew 5:4 Participants will encounter the second blessing and promise of the Beatitudes. They will explore the meaning of “those who mourn” and identify ways in which we feel sadness and comfort. Participants will hear a grown-up say that God blesses our sadness and promises to comfort us. They will articulate activities, objects, people, and messages that help people feel comfort.



If you or someone you know would like to join us for Sunday

School please contact me so that I can provide Zoom details directly to participants and deliver a resource packet. All lessons will be virtual via Zoom at 9am. Want to extend your faith formation as a family or cover a topic when you can't join us? We've got you covered! Each week's lesson includes a Family Page with discussion questions and beautiful pages to color as a family. It's flexible so you can share the resource together all at once or weave the discussion questions into your daily schedule whenever time allows.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas please feel free to reach out to me via email, call, text, or FB messenger.

*Diane Osborne*  
[de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com)  
(508) 409-7919



Happy New Year! The winter holidays gave us some time for rest and relaxation. We are re-energized and gearing up for a fun and educational year at Jack and Jill Pre-School!

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> is the date for this year's open house. We are excited to offer this open house virtually! This is something new for us but we are happy to be able to offer an open house this year. The teachers will be available to speak with incoming families, and members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to answer any questions that families may have. If you know any families who would like an invitation please let me know. ☺

Registration for current families and church members begins on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. If you would like a tour of the program, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I will also be hosting two registration overviews via Zoom to discuss the different program options we offer on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, one at 9:30 AM and the other at 6:30 PM.

I wish I could extend an invitation to the congregation to come and visit our program. I would love to show you the amazing things we are doing here, however the pandemic does not allow for this at this time. Our website has lots of current pictures and blog posts. Please check it out [www.jackandjillattleboro.com](http://www.jackandjillattleboro.com). I do want you to know that the space you provide for us opens up a world of possibilities for the young children and families of the Attleboro area. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the early years of these children's education. Thank you for continuing to support this program.

In the New Year, our 4/5 year old classes will begin working more in depth on pre-kindergarten skills such as writing lower case letters, attending for longer periods of time, and being required to complete specific projects

that we call “have to’s”. The children and parents will be attending their open houses and Kindergarten screenings. A very exciting time for our friends!

As always, if you know of anyone looking for pre-school please encourage them to call me 508-222-1149 or email me at [jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org](mailto:jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org) Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

Warmly, Katrina Lay  
Executive Director

## January Birthdays

4	Ralph Howard Katie Olsen
8	Marty Beck
9	Brent Bowen Cathy Giannetti Rosemary Kukla William Small
11	Anna Beck
19	Chloe Iocco Alan Smith
20	Amanda Lindley
21	Ed McCarthy Charlie Oliver
22	Don Haskel Ruthie Withers
25	Therese LaPorte
26	Adam Hauerwas Angie Vecchioli
29	Colin Blair
31	Viktoria King

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Each Sunday Virtual Service, 10 am  
live streamed on our website!  
View later as well.

(In-person will be announced)

Virtual Sunday School at 9:00 am. See  
CE article for details.

Virtual Profile Team Meeting,  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

J&J Board of Directors Meeting,  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

Virtual Board of Deacons Meeting,  
January, 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

Virtual Facilities Committee Meeting,  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

Virtual Admin Committee Meeting  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

**February Voice Input Deadline,  
January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Virtual Church Council Meeting,  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am.

Food Pantry Distribution,  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Boy Scout and Cub Scout Meetings  
are currently all outdoor or virtual.

### CURATOR’S CORNER

Back in the 70’s, that’s the 1970’s when I joined Second Church, I had my first experience with the sacred rite of the annual meeting. This meeting was always held at night and took place in fellowship hall. The evening always began with a sit down supper which was prepared by the ladies of the women’s fellowship and most always was American chop suey, salad, dessert and coffee.

After the meal, the men cleared away the tables, and chairs were set up in neat rows. Then the real business began. It wasn’t called a roll call supper for nothing. The minister would give a brief prayer and then Miss Gertrude Baker, who was the church clerk in those days, would actually read the roll of members and determine that there was a quorum present for the transaction of church business. As a rather amusing aside, when I would look over at Miss Baker, I thought maybe she had dozed off. Her head was down and it looked like she was not writing anything. Well, the joke was on me. Miss Baker was an expert at shorthand and, believe me, she never missed a word.

Lee Sanford once mused that church annual meetings had been going on since the days of the Pilgrims. Of course only the men could attend and vote but eventually the ladies were included. In those days, without automobiles, television, and big parties, it was a time for all to get together and socialize, while the business of the church was concluded.

Most folks that go to our church today, don’t realize that the church and the parish were two distinct entities. Some

folks belonged to the parish but did not necessarily attend Second Church. Admittedly, most members of the parish were of the congregational faith, but it wasn’t a requirement. To be a member of the parish the men (only) had to be taxpaying property owners over the age of 21. To be fair I will say that there weren’t many other churches in this area, but at that time there was a separation between church and state, but perhaps not as strong as it is today. Things sure have changed, some for the better and some not so. But I sure do miss that American chop suey.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The 2021 Stewardship campaign has received 69 pledges for \$117,276 to support Jesus’ ministries in the community and maintain the church for its programs. Of the 69 pledges, 27 increased and 13, including those who died or moved away, decreased. For your continued support, the Stewardship Committee thanks you.

The goal was \$155,000. For the current year, pledges totaled \$129,000.

The committee is waiting to hear from 18 parishioners and friends who committed financially to support the church in 2020 but haven’t indicated their intentions for 2021. If all continue their support at the same level or increase if possible, the campaign will surpass last year’s total.

Staying together virtually is not easy but a worship service is broadcast every Sunday at 10 a.m. If other obligations interfere with watching the service live, it may be viewed when convenient from the easily accessed archives on the same web page. When parishioners and friends are away or out of town, they may still remain in touch through Sunday worship and many have reported doing so. Like everyone, we are all yearning for the day that worship in the sanctuary will be near normal. Then friendship and acquaintances can be renewed in person.

The annual "Thank you" luncheon scheduled for January has been postponed. It will be rescheduled when it can be held in a safe environment.



### Daily Lectionary Scripture References -January 2021 (Year B)

**Fri., Jan. 1**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Sat., Jan. 2**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 1:1-7  
James 3:13-18

**Sun., Jan. 3**

*Second Sunday after Christmas*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 98 or Wisdom 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**Mon., Jan. 4**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 3:1-12  
James 4:11-17

**Tues., Jan. 5**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 22:1-9  
Luke 6:27-31

**Wed., Jan. 6**

*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Thurs., Jan. 7**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 3:1-21  
Acts 9:10-19a

**Fri., Jan. 8**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Timothy 4:11-16

**Sat., Jan. 9**

Psalm 29  
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12  
Luke 5:1-11

**Sun., Jan. 10**

*Baptism of the Lord*  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

**Mon., Jan. 11**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Genesis 17:1-13  
Romans 4:1-12

**Tues., Jan. 12**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Exodus 30:22-38  
Acts 22:2-16

**Wed., Jan. 13**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Isaiah 41:14-20  
John 1:29-34

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:6-15  
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

**Fri., Jan. 15**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:16-23  
Acts 13:16-25

**Sat., Jan. 16**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 2:21-25  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Sun., Jan. 17**

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*  
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

**Mon., Jan. 18**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8  
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

**Tues., Jan. 19**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 15:10-31  
Acts 5:1-11

**Wed., Jan. 20**

Psalm 86  
Genesis 16:1-14  
Luke 18:15-17

**Thurs., Jan. 21**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 19:1-15  
Revelation 18:11-20

**Fri., Jan. 22**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:7-13  
2 Peter 3:1-7

**Sat., Jan. 23**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:14-18  
Luke 10:13-16

**Sun., Jan. 24**

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

**Mon., Jan. 25**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 12:1-9  
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

**Tues., Jan. 26**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 45:25—46:7  
Acts 5:33-42

**Wed., Jan. 27**

Psalm 46  
Proverbs 8:1-21  
Mark 3:13-19a

**Thurs., Jan. 28**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 3:23-29  
Romans 9:6-18

**Fri., Jan. 29**

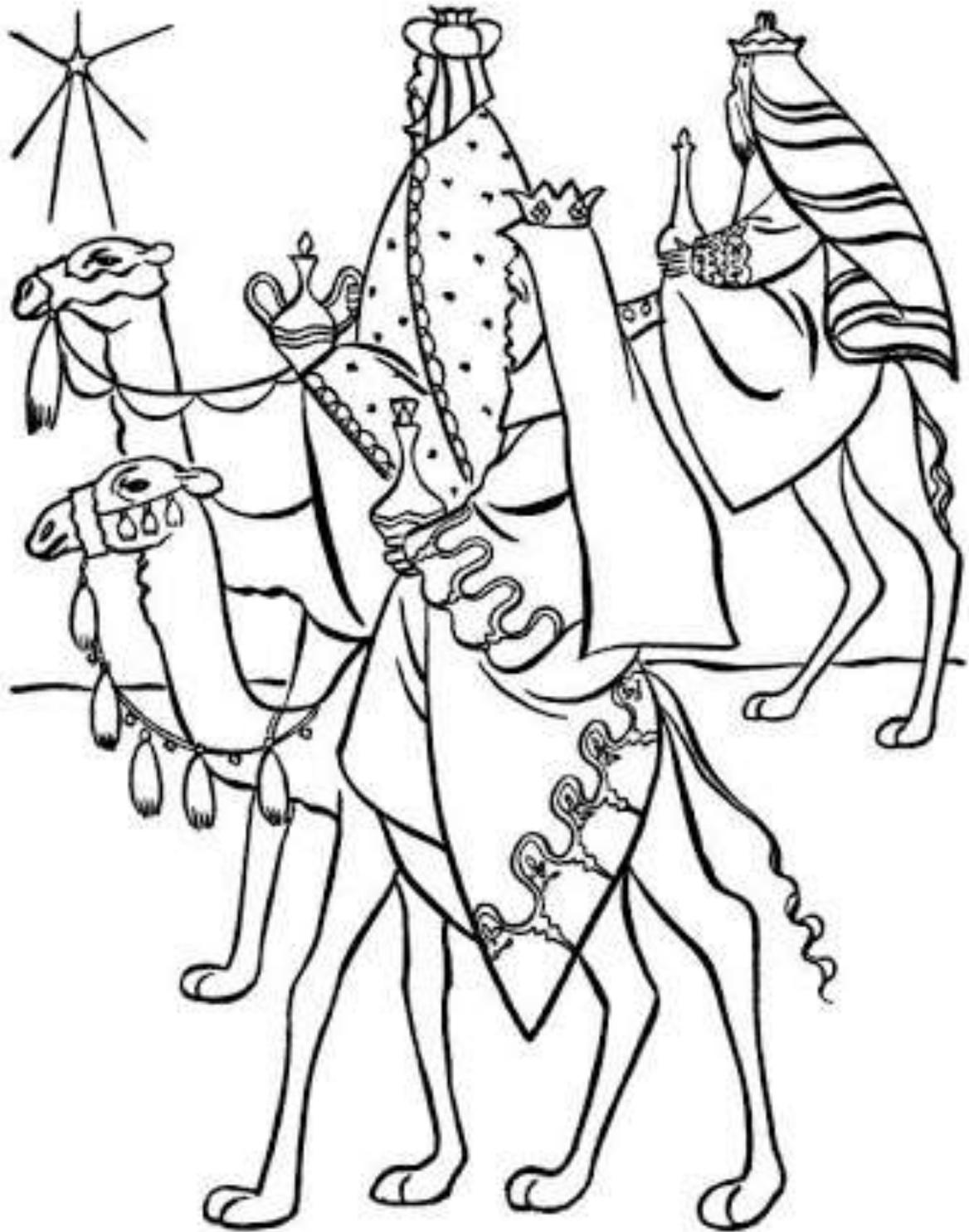
Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 12:28-32  
Revelation 2:12-17

**Sat., Jan. 30**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 13:1-5  
Matthew 8:28—9:1

**Sun., Jan. 31**

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE