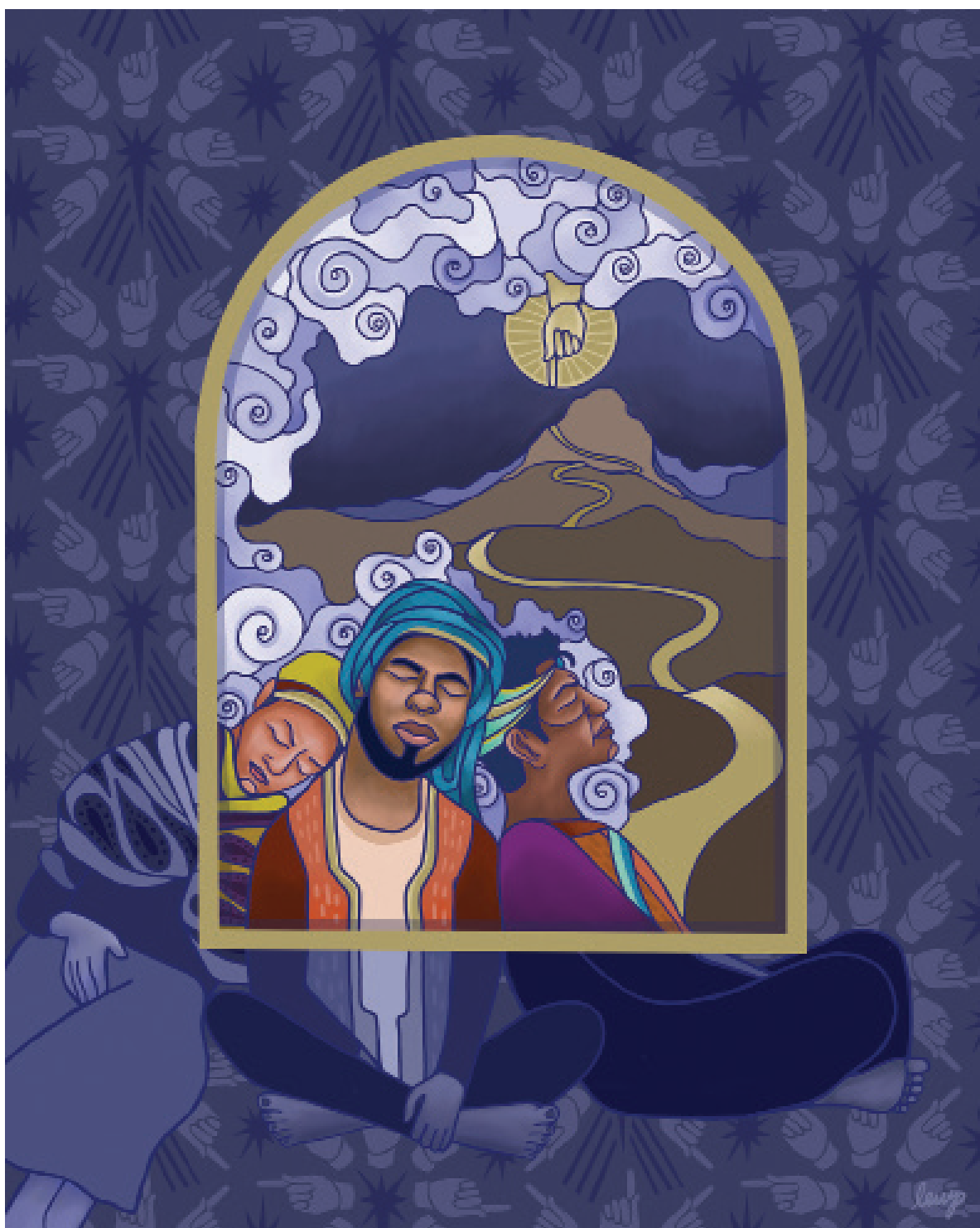


EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JANUARY 2, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.



The Wise Men's Dream
Lauren Wright Pittman



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan
Making God's Love Visible

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

The Moravian Star hanging in the Chancel represents the star followed by the Magi, and the light of Christ illuminating our path in the world today. The first Moravian star is known to have originated in the 1830s at the Moravian Boy's School in Niesky, Germany. Since that time they have been used during Advent in countries throughout the world, but particularly where Moravian missionaries were active. In the United States, they are most prominent in Winston-Salem, NC, a city founded by Moravians in 1733. A 31-foot Moravian star, one of the largest in the world, sits atop a tower at the Wake Forest University Medical Center during Advent and Christmas.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Wie schön leuchtet"

Kenneth Sadowski

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

All: The Glory of God has risen upon us.

One: Tell the good news throughout the earth.

All: The saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.

One: Come and adore the Savior of the nations.

All: We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Benton DeGroot, Brent Ivey, and David Magumba, soloists

Please remain seated to sing Stanza 1 and all Refrains, and then rise on Stanza 5 and join in singing. Soloists will sing Stanzas 2, 3, and 4.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Glory, you sent Jesus among us as light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride often hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor. We ignore cries for justice. We do not strive for peace.

God, in your mercy, meet us where we are. Cleanse us of our sin and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory and share deeper love with one another...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 150, *As with Gladness Men of Old* (DIX).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1–6

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1–12

The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON

The Journey Continues

RESPONDING

* HYMN 152 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Star in the East
Chancel Choir

David Ashley White

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible story*, "Visitors from the East," is found on page 196.

Today our first Scripture passage is read from the floor as an initiative of the Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Accountability group. Recognizing that not all members of our community who may want to serve as readers are physically able to climb the stairs, more readings will come from this location in the future. If you're interested in serving as a Scripture reader, contact Rev. Rogers.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service.

Ways to give: click [online at our First Pres website](#) ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance. As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

Come forward to receive the elements and return to your seat before partaking. The wafers are gluten-free. Those who prefer not to come forward will be served.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

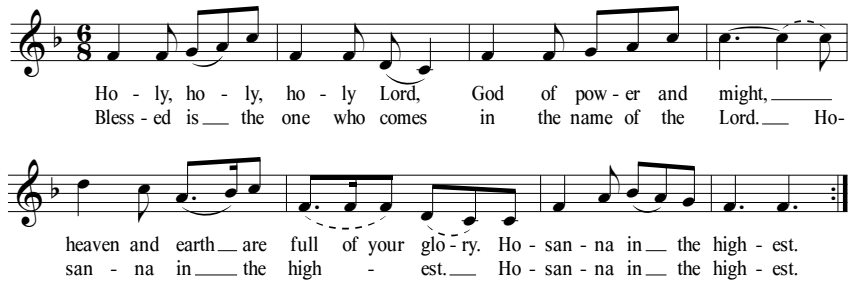
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heaven and earth are full of your glō - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

* HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

The congregation will sing Stanzas 1–5 and the Chancel Choir will sing Stanza 6.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus —

Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**

Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**

Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *In dir ist Freude, BWV 615*

J. S. Bach

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click the link below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website.

<https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/sunday-worship-social-hour-and-more>

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Liturgists – Mark Mares and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Beth Gerwig; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Hannah Lundberg ; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Marolin Bellefleur, Clem Gill, Keith Molin, Beth Sanderford, and Joe Schmidt

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Richard Miller by Angie Miller and family.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Carol Fletcher and Diane Knibbs. "The place for prayer is everywhere." – John Blanchard

Join us for Social Hour and First Sunday Activity in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask. Pre-packaged cookies are available for you to take home to enjoy. Fair Trade coffee and chocolate bars will be for sale.

Children’s Choir will rehearse today at 10:30. Please meet Ms. Powell at the pulpit door.

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Thank you to Norma Polk from Concordia University for loaning us the Three Kings costumes.

FAITH FORMATION TODAY @ 11:00

Fast Track to First Pres Membership! Become a member in as little as twenty minutes **TODAY**. Meet with Rev. Rogers and two Elders at 11:00 a.m., in the Lead Pastor's Office across from the Vance Room. We look forward to you joining as a full or affiliate member.

All-Church First Sunday Activity: Star Words Return! (Social Hall)

Join us during and after Social Hour to create your Star Word – a word written in a star to help guide you in the New Year. All ages are welcome!

Exploring the Faith and **First Friends** will participate in the Intergenerational Activity in the Social Hall.

The Bible at 11 o'clock does not meet today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Communion Sunday. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to our neighbors in need. **Our January donations and financial contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County.** Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. The most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters, jelly, baby food and formula, and Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks. The most needed personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors. Donations will be coordinated by the First Pres Local Missions team.

Visit our art exhibit “Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic” by Christina Saj. “Finding Sanctuary” is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children's laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. To see more of her work please visit <http://www.saj.art>. The artwork is for sale for \$225 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

There is no Taizé Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 4. Monthly services will resume on Tuesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

The Men's Study Group meets on the first and third Friday mornings, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room, for coffee, study, and conversation. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys, a Bible Study for women, meets via Zoom on the first and third Thursday of the month from 11:30 to 1:00. A Resident Minister facilitates our time together. We're studying the book of Acts, incorporating art and poetry to tease out fresh modern perspectives about the authority and power of the Holy Spirit. For more details, contact Coordinator Beth Gerwig at bgerwig@comcast.net. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. Contact Meg Brown (imegbrown@gmail.com) for more information. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Let Meg know if you would like to be added to the email list.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. Would you like prayer for yourself or others? Use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>. If you would like to join this group, email Rev. Rogers (mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

December Tornado Response. Saturday afternoon, December 11, in the face of devastating loss after a tornado destroyed their historic building on the previous Friday evening, First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky invoked Scripture:

“The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones;
The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace with cedars.” (Isaiah 9:10)

The catastrophic destruction of Mayfield is one but one of the harrowing stories from Western Kentucky after a massive tornado ripped through six states in the mid-section of the U.S. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has deployed a team to the area, and expects both short and long-term relief efforts. Use this link to make a contribution directly to PDA: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

Refugee Resettlement Interest Meeting. As our church continues to partner with Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County in their efforts to support refugees arriving from Afghanistan, we may have the opportunity to co-sponsor a particular family, which will involve significant efforts (both through donations and volunteer hours) from our congregation. Before we commit, we would like to share more information and gauge our community’s interest and engagement. Join Rev. Hannah Lundberg for an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom if you’d like to learn more. Check the church calendar or contact Hannah (hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org) for a Zoom link and to answer any questions you may have.



Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist

Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse

David Hufford
Organist

Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister

Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families

Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse

Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor

Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister

Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant

Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant

Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist

Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator

Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller
Finance Manager

Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson
Office Manager



First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor

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