



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
January 7, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.



Epiphany is the celebration of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ—a holy day (traditionally January 6) that probably predates Christmas. Its primary symbol is Light, connoting illumination and understanding.

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.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 7, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol, and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY Greensleeves arr. Richard Purvis

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This little light of mine
we're going to let it shine.
This little light of the world
has overcome the darkness.
We have followed the light to this place,
and the glory of the God's presence is among us!
Let us worship God!

* HYMN 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are KINGS OF ORIENT
Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, Nick Music
(Please sing stanzas 1 and 5 and all refrains)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God,
Magi from the east were looking for Jesus.
Herod was looking for Jesus,
and we are overcome with amazement
that you became one of us in the Christ-child.
Teach us what it means to surrender what we have,
To fall on our knees, and to worship you.
As we move from this place to our diverse homes,
help us to carry our adoration with us,
that we might not be tempted
to reject the love that brought us here....

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 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

PROCLAIMING *the* WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Please join in singing as the children come forward.

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Why Not a Star

Margaret Gooding

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

SERMON

RESPONDING *and* SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Epiphany
Chancel Choir

Bob Chilcott

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
‘Tis sent to tell of a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.
‘Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
From Jacob shall a star proceed.
And lo! the eastern sages stand,
To read in heaven the Lord’s command.
I think of them tonight;
Epiphany, which means that they were right.
And when it’s dark it means we have to find
The star within our hearts,
The star that leads to light.

* DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEVES

**So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Ways to give:
Cash/Check**

Place in the offering
plate or in the mail

Text-to-Give

Text the amount you
would like to give to
855-904-1523

Online

<https://bit.ly/FPCvanco>

Vanco Mobile App



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow - er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

- * HYMN 744 *Arise! Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG
- * CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY David Johnson
Trumpet Tune in D Major



*The chancel flowers are given by Angie Miller and Family
to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Miller.*

*The rosebud is in honor of Aidan Cheng Keil born on December 24, 2023.
Parents are Christian and Maryli Keil of San Mateo, CA.
Grandparents are Dave and Jenny Keil.*

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Moyers, Mike.
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WELCOME

We Are Glad You Are Here!

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us.

While you are with us today, we would love for you to do two things:

- 1. **Sign the Friendship Pad.** The pads are located at the end of each pew. Sign it then pass it down to others.
- 2. **Join us following worship for Social Hour.** There will be cookies and coffee and lots of friendly faces.

Children in Worship

Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship.

Parking

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard. The structure is only a three minute walk from the church, and parking is free on Sundays. To get to the church from the structure, cross Forest Avenue and walk down Forest Court to the end of the block.

Worship Leaders

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers	<i>Minister of Music & Fine Arts</i>
Rev. Hannah Lundberg	David VanderMeer
Rev. Mark Mares	<i>Lay Reader</i>
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers	Ellen Brengle
<i>Musicians</i>	<i>Greeter</i>
Chancel Choir	Nancy Oliver
<i>Organist</i>	
David Hufford	

Stewardship Update

As of January 2, we have **452 pledges** totaling **\$1,855,877** which is **93.1% of our goal.**

Thank you to the individuals and families who have made a financial pledge to the 2024 Annual Campaign. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, it's not too late. Thank you for your support of the ministry and mission of First Pres!

To make a pledge online, visit firstpresbyterian.org/contribute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORMATION

EXPLORING THE FAITH

Resolving to Face the Inevitable:

Memorial Planning

Lewis Room

Speaker: Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

As a new year begins, we have many resolutions and hopes, but life is fragile and the future cannot be known. How do we prepare so that, in every year, we are making life (and death) easier for those who love us? Rev. Rogers, MA(MFT) regularly leads grief support groups and in the past worked for the Hospice of Lansing.

BIBLE AT 11 O'CLOCK

New Testament Epistles:

James; 1, 2, & 3 John

French Room & Zoom

Host: Ed Koster

FIRST FRIENDS

This class will join the Exploring the Faith class on January 7.

MATURE MINISTRIES

Smartphone 101

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 7

10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Learn the key components, concepts, and techniques of your smartphone in the Smartphone 101 class. Classes are offered in the morning and evening for iPhone and Android users. Cost is \$50 and limited to 15 participants per class. Register online at firstpresbyterian.org/mature-ministries

Smartphone 201

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 7

11:45 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Learn usefull skills and apps such as Maps, Google Lens, Uber, and more. This class is for those with confidence in downloading apps and basic operation of a smartphone. Cost is \$50 and limited to 15 participants per class. Register online at firstpresbyterian.org/mature-ministries

MISSION

January Food Collection

Each month we collect food donations and special financial contributions to support a local hunger ministry partner. This month our partner is Food Gatherers. Non-perishable food may be placed in the baskets provided in the Welcome Center on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. Financial gifts may be made by check or online.

Rotating Shelter

Rotating Shelter returns to First Pres January 1-15, 2024! Please consider volunteering to donate food/snacks/warm clothing/hospitality when we turn our church home into an overnight home for a select group of 18-20 un-housed men. Sign up or learn more at firstpresbyterian.org.



Scan with your phone
to visit our website

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