

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 3, 2021

THOSE
WHO *persevere*
DREAM
Epiphany



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse 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 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most 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!

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

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

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. Like shepherds and sages before us, we're drawn by the Light to worship the consummate revelation of God—and find ourselves at the manger, seeing God among us as never before. Our gifts of praise, prayer and proclamation, like the magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, pay tribute to the holy wonder of God's incarnation in Jesus.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY *From East to West, from Shore to Shore*

Nicolas de Grigny

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come; the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is now known; the promises of God are being fulfilled!

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before the manger and give Christ honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

This Hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. The congregation will sing stanzas 1 and 5 and all refrains.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ, Son of God, you were before the world began, and you came to earth to save us all: forgive us when we turn away from the poor, and the cries for justice. Make us witnesses of your Good News for all people.

Lord of Light, we bless your Name.

Son of justice, you shone at the Father's side and illuminated the universe: forgive us for the times our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. Give light to all who dwell in the shadow of death.

Lord of Light, we bless your Name!

You became a little child and were laid in a manger: forgive us when we fail to protect the vulnerable among us, including our fragile earth. Renew in us the simplicity of childhood.

Lord of Light, we bless your Name.

King of glory, you accepted such an inconceivable humbling: forgive us when we fail to follow your ways, give us hearts which are poor.

Lord of Light, we bless your Name.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light.
Come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright.
O, shine all a-round us by day and by
night. Je-sus, the light of the world.

This is the Refrain of Hymn 127, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT).

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

Following the Light

RESPONDING AND SEALING

HYMN 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From
3 While outward signs the star dis-plays, an
4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-



love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis
Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed;" and
in-ward light the Lord con-veys and
pels us on to seek your face, let



sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad
lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to
urg-es them, with ten-der might, to
not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the



ti-dings of our God to bring.
read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.
seek the giv-er of the light.
guid-ance of your light to use.

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

As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below. (Call Finance Manager Anna Miller if you need assistance.)



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth*

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
And a sceptre from Israel rise up,
And dash in pieces Princes and Nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar.
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, o praise such love o'erflowing.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 glo - 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 *Jesus, Redeemer of Mankind*

Marcel Dupré

SENDING

HYMN 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rliq2l>

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.
2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise. Je - sus, the
3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

light of the world. Glo - ry to the
Join the tri - umph
Christ, the ev - er -
Hail, the Sun of

new - born King,
of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.
last - ing Lord;
righ - teous - ness!

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.

Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.

O, shine all a - round us by day and by

night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Unto Us a Boy Is Born*

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Amy Ruhf; Liturgists – Melissa Anne Rogers and Andrew Frazier; Communion Celebrants – Andrew Frazier and Amy Ruhf; Scripture Reader – Barbara Dobson; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Mark Mares; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Joseph Sevig, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler

Today is Communion Sunday. As we come to the Lord’s Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of January will be overseen by the Local Missions Team. Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor is the recipient of your generosity.

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for today, Sunday, January 3, 2021, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee to conduct the search for a new Lead Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. The Congregational Nominating Committee will present a slate of up to nine nominees, as directed by the Session and in accordance with our polity. Information on the nominees will be available before the meeting. This meeting, to be held virtually on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>), will begin immediately after the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary with Coffee Hour following the adjournment of the meeting.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Congregational Meeting. If you have questions or need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Today’s conversation prompt:** Where have you found guidance in life? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Richard Miller by Angie Miller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resident Minister Rev. Amy Ruhf has been called to active duty as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and will end her time as one of our pastors in Ann Arbor on January 31. Amy is a 2019 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and has used her time at First Pres to refine her call to mainline Protestant military chaplaincy. From Ann Arbor, Amy will travel to Newport, Rhode Island for more training and then will move to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. There she will serve as a Navy Chaplain to those women and men stationed there. Our Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 24, will be a time to celebrate Rev. Ruhf and to thank her for her faithful contributions to First Pres and commission her for further service to the U.S. Navy. Contributions toward a special gift for her may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00. Checks should be made payable to First Pres with the purpose noted on the memo line.

Administrative Assistant Cindy King will be leaving her position with us to explore a new opportunity effective January 15. She and her family will continue to be involved as active members of First Pres. Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 7, will be a time to celebrate Cindy and to thank her for her faithful service to First Pres in various roles over more than eight years. Contributions toward a special gift for Cindy may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00. Checks should be made payable to First Pres with the purpose noted on the memo line.

We are the Church TOGETHER, in Faith, Love, and the Spirit Stewardship Update: As of December 21, 398 pledges totaling \$1,399,664 have been received. This represents 82.3% of our \$1,700,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we plan the 2021 budget. Thank you for all you do to share your Faith, Love and the Spirit through the ministries of First Pres!

Welcome College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches. Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is now \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995-2519) if you would like more information.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact her (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

We will not have a Taizé Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 5. We will resume monthly services on Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

The Stephen Ministry Program invites you to participate in a virtual continuing education presentation on Monday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Kelcey Stratton will present "Compassionate Conversations in Times of Stress and Change: Supporting Emotional Well-Being." Drawing on research-based theories and practices, this session will provide information, support strategies, and reflection tools to help provide compassionate support to those experiencing sadness, worry, loss, or uncertainty. Participants will also learn skills to care for their own emotional well-being as they provide support to others. Join the presentation via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733372207>).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families. Beca can be reached at btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children's Choir News. The Children's Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate. Choir includes singing, chanting, playing drums, and moving with scarves.

All children's faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time. Mark can be reached at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

All youth faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation).

Our Confirmation Class meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday. If you are interested in joining, it isn't too late – just let Rev. Mark know.

Our High School students will meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events. We're really looking forward to thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith leads us in our everyday lives.

Middle School and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School/High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) at 11:00 a.m. today. All are welcome to join in the conversation with First Pres member Mark Lindley who will speak about volunteering and healthcare on an Indian reservation.

Exploring the Faith meets via Zoom at 12:15 p.m. for "Dreaming Through Music." This is the first of two presentations by Dave VanderMeer and Andrew Frazier. Join in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>

Bible Study @ 5:00 meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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