EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 3, 2021







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



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.

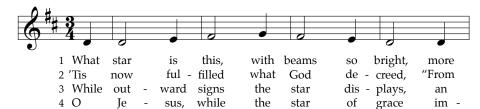
SERMON

Following the Light

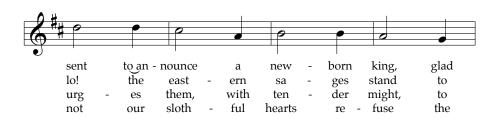
RESPONDING AND SEALING

HYMN 152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR









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.

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.)



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

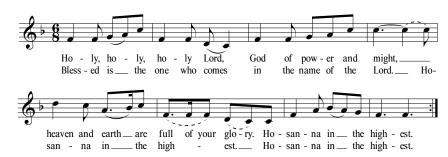
One: The Lord be with you. **All:** And also with you.

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.



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

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.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshiping 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/2Rlig2I

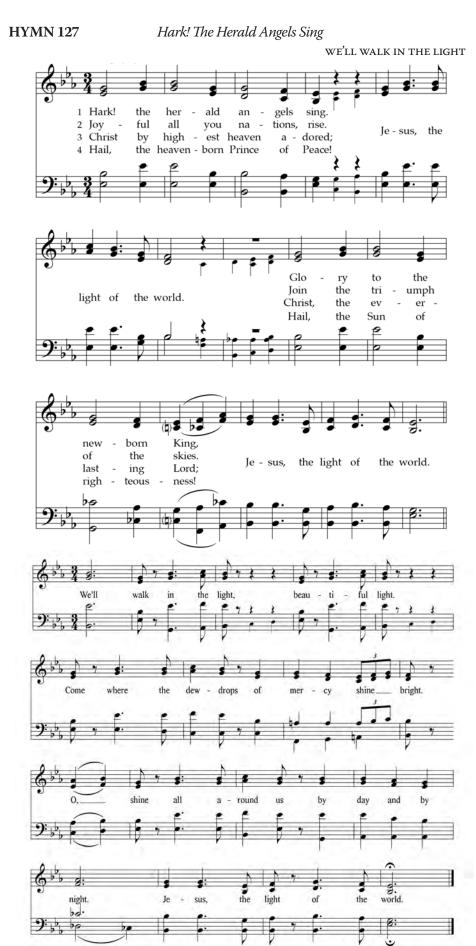
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SENDING



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 commision 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 varioius 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 (<u>virginiabell2013@gmail.com</u>) 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 (kmcinchak@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/i/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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