

GATHERING

God of glory, Your Word made a home with us so that we might be at home in You. Gather Your children from the farthest places in the world and lead us to that home where the human race can become Your perfect family; through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

We Three Kings

J. Linker

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

And we have seen His glory.

Glory to God forever!

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ.

Glory to God forever!

* **HYMN 150**

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of Your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in Your world. We have sinned against You and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of You, each other, and Your creation. By the power of Your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in Your light and walk in Your truth; through Christ our Lord, who we ask to transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* **ACT OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-3 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 10

Thanks be to God.

SOLO (11 A.M.)

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. K. L. Scott

Heather Harrell, soprano; Megan Sabella, violin

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Hinton

(Children will remain seated with their families for the Time for Young Disciples.)

- * **HYMN 744** Arise, Your Light Is Come! Festal Song
- NEW TESTAMENT READING** Ephesians 1:1-14 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord. NT pg. 191
Thanks be to God.
- SERMON** The Leader as Visionary Fred Lundy
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

RESPONDING

- * **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.
- OFFERING**
OFFERTORY 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime L. Petersen
Megan Sabella; violin
- * **DOXOLOGY** Hymn 606
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*
- * **THE LORD'S PRAYER**
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.

SENDING

- * **HYMN 151** We Three Kings of Orient Are Kings of Orient
- * **BENEDICTION**
- * **POSTLUDE** Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie M. Duruflé

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Sarah Hinton, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart

ELDER ON DUTY: Tim Schubert

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

SOLOIST: Heather Harrell, soprano

VIOLIN: Megan Sabella

USHERS: Jenny Chamberlain, Tom Chamberlain, Bill Olinger, Paul Bennett

VIDEO TEAM: Troy Bleeker, Kaylee Bleeker, Dylan Tillery

SOUND: Bruce Brashear

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Prayer of Belief: *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.* (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

Leadership

Rev. Mark Hults
Pastor

Allison VanDenend
Clerk of Session

Dink Henderson
Treasurer

Session

Diaconate

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Mary Jo Deichler	Pam Bailey	Alison Barat
Carol Israel	Todd Best	Ashley Lentz-Black
Jed Keesling	Deanna Cook	Jennifer Clark
Earle Pickens	Andrew Greer	Maralyn Foote
John Rayl	Missy Lentz	George Lebo
Tim Schubert	Russell Robinson	Evelyn Lewis
Allison VanDenend	Andy Vloedman	Dan Sutton
Cyndie Williams	Margaret Weech	

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Dell Bowman	Jessica Berger	Tammy Bleeker
Megan Greer	Perry Foote	Buzz Boyd
Fred Lewis	Mimi Gray	Mimi Carr
Jane Morris	Dean Schoenfeld	Kristin Pickens
Rose Pickens	Jane Smith	Mary Lou Schubert
Barbara Probert	Dale Syfert	Nick Vellis

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Director of College Ministry

Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Director of Children's Ministries

Vicki Sumner - children@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Pastor's Assistant

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Assistant

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Global Missions

FIETNIC, Estelí, Nicaragua

Shalom Presbyterian Church, Estelí, Nicaragua

Local Missions

Christians Concerned for the Community

Family Promise

Gainesville Community Ministry

Habitat for Humanity

Helping Hands Clinic

Highlands Regional Ministry Outreach

St. Francis / Arbor House

As with Gladness Men of Old 150

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-3 (NRSV)

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
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FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)

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NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NRSV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In Him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of His glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 night;
 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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

GLORIFY GOD

Start the new year with service: So many of you came out to help decorate the church. As the celebrations come to an end, please join us tomorrow, Monday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.

A Solo Organ Recital with David Higgs will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 9 at 4 p.m. One of America's leading concert organists, David Higgs is Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He performs extensively throughout the United States and abroad and has inaugurated many important new instruments including the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola New York City, and most recently, Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati. His performances with numerous ensembles have included the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Orpheus Ensemble, Chanticleer, and the Empire Brass. Mr. Higgs frequently performs, teaches, and adjudicates at the great organ festivals and competitions around the world.

Year-End Contribution Statements will be sent upon request after January 15. Please contact Trudy Bonerba at business@1stpc.org or through the church office and specify if you prefer email or regular mail.

January is a Great Time to Join a Choir at First Presbyterian Church! There are choirs and handbell groups for a variety of ages. Please contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org with questions or to find the right group for you.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Nursery Coordinator Needed: We are hiring an individual to staff and run the nursery. The paid position is 8-10 hours a week which includes Sunday mornings, weekly planning, and special events. Several volunteers are already committed to serve with the children. Contact Evelyn Lewis with questions at citytr122@gmail.com.

Children's Worship Bags are located in the Narthex, Gordon Hall, and the chapel. Pick one up before the service to help your child participate in worship. After the service, please return all bags to the baskets. We encourage your family to discuss worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

Children and Youth Sunday School: Our Elementary (K-5th Grade) and Youth (6th-12th Grade) Sunday School classes are still on break and will resume meeting via Zoom next Sunday, January 9. The Elementary class meets from 9:30-9:50 a.m. and the Youth class meets from 10:00-10:20 a.m. in which both classes spend time in fellowship, the morning lesson, and prayer. The Christian Education Committee is working to bring Sunday School off Zoom and back into the church building in the coming months. Please join us in prayer while we work to equip volunteers to lead these classes and let us know if you feel called to lead. Please contact Vicki Sumner with questions and to volunteer.

Youth Connection (6th-12th Grade) is a space for our students to connect and grow in their faith. Join us from 4-6 p.m. on January 9 and January 23. The locations of the two gatherings will be announced as the dates approach. Look for more information regarding Youth Connection in the Children and Youth Ministry Weekly Updates.

Young Adult & Family Ministry: We have in-person and Zoom gatherings scheduled for the new year along with opportunities to support local missions. Contact Fred Lundy if you would like to be on our email list.

Gordon Hoover Sunday School: Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Enter through the Mary Gate or the sanctuary. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com with questions.

January 2	Acts 27	Ray Davis
January 9	Acts 28	Pam Bailey

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Cecilia Caton, Jayne Fox, Emily Hoyer, Kay Koons, Elizabeth Miller, and Theral Moore. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Trinity Gilkey, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez, and Paul Samala. Essential worker: Bill Clark.

Online contributions can be made through your computer or smart phone. Go to 1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Questions? Contact Trudy Bonerba.

Nursery: Our Nursery will be open from 10:45 a.m. through the end of the 11 a.m. worship service today. Nursery care is for infants (6 weeks old) through pre-kindergarten children. The nursery will be run by FPC volunteers who will be wearing masks in order to help protect the little ones within their care. The children are not required to wear masks, yet we will honor any caregiver's request for their child to keep their mask on within our care. Our church is still hiring a Nursery Coordinator and enlisting volunteers until one is found. Please let Vicki Sumner, children@1stpc.org, or Evelyn Lewis, citytr122@gmail.com, know if you are able to join the FPC Nursery Volunteer team or if you are willing to volunteer yourself to serve as our Nursery Coordinator one of the Sundays in January.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.**
for our televised broadcast 
or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts



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as well as archives at 1stpc.org

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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org