

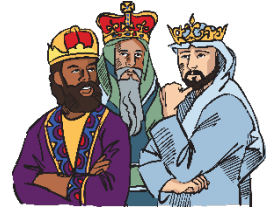
# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Epiphany*  
*January 5, 2025*

*10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service*

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## GATHER

*Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.*  
Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

*Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.*

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,  
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!  
And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal  
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

### Prelude

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*John Hopkins, arr. Becki Slagle Mayo*

### Lighting the Christ Candle

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

**Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.**

### Call to Worship

Arise, people of God! The light has come; it shines around us, within us, and without us.  
**In the gloom of winter we seek out the light of Christ; we yearn for God's radiance and warmth.**

Gather, people of God! Come to encounter the Holy Mystery of God-with-us.

**As the wise men journeyed from afar, so have we come to pay homage to the Christ child.**

Give thanks, people of God! Let us be servants of the gospel, sharers in the promise of Christ.

**Through Christ, we have access to God; let us be bold in our worship!**

### \* Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*Kings of Orient*

*(See hymn on next page)*

# 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 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!

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.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we go about our days failing to proclaim your saving power with our voices or with our actions. We do not live as ones saved, but rather as people filled with fear and doubt. We often choose what is expedient, not what is right. We close our eyes and ears to those who are in need, and close our hearts to those we claim to love. We are quick to hurt others, and slow to right our wrongs. Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we have not lived into our relationship with you. Amen.

### Assurance of Grace

#### \* Response of Praise 141, verse 3

*Personent Hodie*

*(singing together)*

3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three  
to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -  
*Refrain*  
fore him, praise him and a - dore him. \*Id - e - o - o - o,  
id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

#### \* Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)*

**\* Response of Praise 414**  
(singing together)

Psalm 46

**Words of Welcome**

Capo 4: (C) (Am) (C7) (Am)  
E C#m E7 C#m

Be still and know that I am God.

(F) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Fmaj7) (G7)  
A E F#m G#m Amaj7 B7

Be still and know that I am God.

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information on the Visitor Card in the pew rack! Place the Visitor Card in the offering plate.*

## ENCOUNTER

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

*Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.*

*Parents can pick up their children following worship.*

*Older children, grades 2-5, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.*

*(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)*

**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.**

## **Second Lesson: Acts 22:6-21**

<sup>6</sup>“While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. <sup>7</sup>I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>8</sup>I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Then he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.’ <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>I asked, ‘What am I to do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.’ <sup>11</sup>Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus. <sup>12</sup>“A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, <sup>13</sup>came to me; and standing beside me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight!’ In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>Then he said, ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; <sup>15</sup>for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.’ <sup>17</sup>“After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup>and saw Jesus saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ <sup>19</sup>And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup>And while the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by, approving and keeping the coats of those who killed him.’ <sup>21</sup>Then he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

For the Word of God in scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

**Thanks be to God!**

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

### RESPOND AND SERVE

\* Hymn 827

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Wie Schön Leuchtet

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

## 827 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
 2 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
 3 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we

God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 love is first and last, the end and the be - gin - ning!

Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 He will one day, O glo - rious grace, trans - port us to that

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and bass lines. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 heav - en - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 hap - py place be - yond all tears and sin - ning! A - men!

ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For you  
 A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness! We are

bles - sing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 yearn - ing for the day of your re - turn - ing.

This "Queen of Chorales" (see no. 349 for the "King") is often associated with Epiphany because of the star imagery, but the text is really addressed to Christ as the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16), who guides and sustains us in this life and is our hope for the life to come.

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai, 1597; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
 MUSIC: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1740  
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET  
 Irregular

**Concerns and Remembrances**

**The Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

What Sweeter Music

Ralph Vaughan Williams

## The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Table

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*[The prayer continues and concludes with this prayer:]*

**God in heaven, your name is to be honored.**

**May your new community of hope be realized  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the essentials of life.**

**Release us from our wrongdoing  
as we also release those who wrong us.**

**Do not test us beyond our enduring;  
save us from all that is evil.**

**For you embrace justice, love and peace,  
now and to the end of time.**

**Amen.**

### Breaking the Bread

### Communion Music

Brightest and Best

*American Folk Hymn, arr. M. Hayes*

### Communion of the People

*We will receive communion this morning  
by passing the bread and cup to one another in the pew.*

*Gluten-free bread is in the center of the bread tray.*

*The trays will have red wine and white grape juice.*

*Our tradition is to eat the bread as it comes to you,  
and then to hold the cup so we may commune together.*

### Prayer After Communion



# SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

\* Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

## What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)  
 D Bm A D G D A D G

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

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)  
 D A D G D A

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

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)  
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

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

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)  
 A D A D G A D

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.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

LM

(alternate harmonization, 254)

\* **Benediction**

\* **Response 135, verse 1** (*singing together*)      *Follow*

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow;  
rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

**Postlude**

Toccata all'Offertorio

*Domenico Zipoli*





## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.*

### During Today's Worship

**If your infant or child needs care** during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. The nursery is in Room 159. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

### If you are new to First Presbyterian Church

**Communion** is served on the first Sunday of each month.

**Disabled persons entrance** is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

**We invite you to become a member** of First Presbyterian Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

### Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org) for more info.

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## The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org)

*Ministers: All members of the congregation*

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor  
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education  
Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries  
Megan Bondhus, Church Administrator  
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper  
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton  
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator  
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator  
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

*Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church*

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115

