

Pastor Continues

... we would proclaim that mystery called faith:

**Christ died, praying for those who harmed him;
Christ rose, doing to death what we could not do;
Christ will return, not withholding resurrection from us.**

Communion of the People

Sending

We leave, our hearts filled with God's love.

**We will go to offer the wonders of laughter
and hope to everyone we will meet.**

We leave, following Jesus into the world.

**We will serve alongside him in the brokenness
of our neighbors and our communities.**

We leave, having heard the whispers of the Spirit.

**We will speak justice to those
who would hoard it only for themselves.**

Benediction

Postlude

"Bell Carillon"

Handbell Choir

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, Tom Gillespie, Eddie Blount,
Elliot Jones, Susan Mathena, and David Parris

Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

You pour out grace upon us, Loving God, not so we might be filled, but we might empty ourselves for others. Take these gifts we offer in these moments and use them to bring new life and hope to all around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please place your tithes and offerings in the offering plates at the front of the sanctuary.



First Presbyterian Church

Epiphany Sunday

January 3, 2021

DRAWN IN TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE

As the chimes ring in the worship hour, we invite people to enter a time of personal reflection and congregational worship. ***Please note: There will be no congregational singing .

Welcome and Invocation

Prelude "Bell Carol" arr. by Douglas Wagner
Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights! Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces! Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God! You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky! Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created! God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.
Psalm 148:1-6

Hymn of Praise "We Three Kings of Orient Are" **GTG#151**

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

In this season of light, Revealing God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.

Forgive us, Resurrecting God, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God, who restores us to new life.

God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; God provides healing and hope to all. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.
Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

Young Disciples Tom Gillespie

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Prayers of the People

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 60:1-5a*

Anthem "Christ, Be Our Light" *by Bernadette Farrell*

Scripture Reading *Matthew 2:1-12*

Sermon "Known By The Light: Called to Joy"

Hymn of Response "As With Gladness Men of Old" **GTG#150**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of Epiphany be with you!

And also with you!

Be still. Wait patiently for the One who loves you.

Our hearts rest in that peace which God offers to us.

Trust in God, who delights in you.

We rejoice in the One whose Light shines in our lives.

Pastor Continues:

... we join our voices in singing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God our delight.
Creation sings your glory in every moment.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to provide life for us.

Hosanna in the highest!

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

(Refrain)

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

(Refrain)

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Refrain)

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

(Refrain)

As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

AIDS TO WORSHIP

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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; 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.