

And you have surprised us with blessings beyond all that we dare to ask or imagine. You have called us together as the body of Christ, and individually members of it. Teach us, O God, to honor our diversity, to celebrate our unity, and to support each other on our journey together. Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we might be the body of Christ for the world. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; make us faithful in your service through our service to the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Breaking and Sharing of the Bread
Pouring and Sharing of the Cup

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Kuhnau
How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heav'n rejoices; O Righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod! Thou Son of Man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices: Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy, yet most lowly, draw Thou near us; Great Emmanuel, come and hear us. Rejoice, you heav'ns, and earth, reply; with praise, all people, fill the sky for this, His incarnation. Incarnate God, put forth Your pow'r; ride on, ride on, great Conqueror, till all know Your salvation. Amen, amen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise be given evermore by earth and heaven.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of new beginnings, begin again with us. Open our hearts to hope and open our eyes to new directions. Set before us this day the way of Christ, and set within us your Holy Spirit. Enable us to go forth with confidence certain that amidst the constancy of change, your love remains forever and your hope upholds us always, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (vv. 1, 2, 5) 151

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *As With Gladness Men of Old* Paul Manz

**Please stand if you are able.*

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

- | | |
|---|--|
| The Rev. Mark R. Curtis
Senior Pastor | Laura Harmon
Church Administrator |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor | Lauren Nunn
Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
Director of Family Faith Formation | Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant |
| Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster | Victor Lenoir
Custodian |
| Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator | Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer |
| Katie Norrell
Director of Communications | J.P. Pennoyer
Crucifer |
| Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities | Maddie Pitt
Bible Bearer |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

We Three Kings One License # 10-203
What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright
Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur
Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Tune: Regent Square
What Child Is This
Tune: Greensleeves

As with Gladness Men of Old
Tune: Dix
We Three Kings of Orient Are
Tune: Kings of Orient
As With Gladness Men of Old One License # 10-203.2

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *We Three Kings* Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Isaiah 60, Psalm 80, II Corinthians 4 & John 12*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine,
that we may be saved.

**For it is God who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness,”
who has shone in our hearts to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said: I am the light of the world.

**Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.**

***OPENING HYMN** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* 152

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the
brightness of your love. Help us, like the Magi, to search for
your light, that forgiven and renewed, we may announce your
good news to the world and tell of your glory shining in the face
of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever...**

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (v 4) 143

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore
your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and
worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *What Child Is This* (v 3) 145

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON *Isaiah 60:1-6* Ruthie Kuhlman

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON “Your Light Has Come” Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *As with Gladness Men of Old* 150

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
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.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *The Three Kings* Peter Cornelius

Three Kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star: and this the quest of the travelers three, where the new-born King of the Jews may be. Full royal gifts they bear for the King: gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. How brightly shines the morning star! With grace and truth from heaven afar our Jesse tree now bloweth. The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way, and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see; their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. Of Jacob's stem and David's line, for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine, my soul with love o'erfloweth. Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the Kings are traveling, travel with them! The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King. Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.

It is truly right and our great joy to give you thanks, O God...

...And so, with all your people on earth

and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

You have called us, O God, to new places and new hopes.
The old will dream dreams, and the young will see visions.
Throughout the ages, you have asked your people
to put their trust in you,
and to follow you to unseen and unlikely destinations.