

*Our Vision*  
***God Nourishes All to Grow***

*Our Mission*  
***Inspiring All to Love and Serve with Christ***



***First Presbyterian Church***

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January 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

Fugue in E-flat Major BWV 852—Johann Sebastian Bach

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We have been called from north and south, from east and west,  
so that we might receive grace and glory, truth and light.

**Grace and glory, truth and light!**

Some of us come with questions and doubts, hoping to discover  
grace and glory, truth and light.

**Grace and glory, truth and light!**

We have come to labor and blossom and serve our God,  
so we might produce grace and glory, truth and light.

**Grace and glory, truth and light!**

We open ourselves in joy today, so that we might become  
grace and glory, truth and light.

**Grace and glory, truth and light!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

**Living God, you are the shining light that shows us our way, the life that makes all things live, the joy that makes whole universe good. Help us to recognize you everywhere. Open our senses to find you in unlikely places and open our hearts to welcome you in this place. Amen.**

### \*HYMN #152 What Star is This, with Beams So Bright

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Great and gracious God, we have known the light of your presence in our midst through calls to personhood, to faith, to justice, and to action. We turn humbly in confession to acknowledge that we have failed you, and each other, and our ourselves. Hear us as we pray together the prayer of confession:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God, your presence in Christ truly was and remains an epiphany. Your people were immersed in the darkness of oppression and despair, yet you came through Christ to reveal not only your love but your presence. You showed us that you are with us no matter what may befall. Through Christ, you taught us that the way to discover you is through faith, hope and love. Too often we close our eyes to your epiphany and remain in darkness. Help us to open our eyes and hearts to you so that we can discover Christ's light and love growing in our souls.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

The light of God surrounds us, and all it takes is open eyes to see it.

**When we walk in faith we discover God's light brightening even the darkest corners of our lives. We have seen Christ's glory, full of grace and truth.**

Know, therefore, that your sins are forgiven. May you receive grace upon grace upon grace.

**\*RESPONSE # 89 For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits  
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

**O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you; come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

**PASSING THE PEACE** (responsive)

As we have been forgiven in Christ, let us also forgive one another, and God will be glorified. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.** (*share words of peace*)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Joel Morien

SPECIAL MUSIC

Prelude in E-flat Major BWV 852—Johann Sebastian Bach

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison)

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that hearing, we may obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PSALM 147: 12-20** (Responsive)

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**He sends his commands to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**He hurls down hail like crumbs- who can stand before his cold?**

He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

**Praise the Lord!**

GOSPEL

John 1: 1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

“Darkness and Light”

Nancy Siewert

**\*HYMN #494**

**Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

The Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated on the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The magi brought gifts to honor the Christ child – gifts that showed their hopes and dreams and understandings of the life of God’s Messiah. Let us present gifts that embody our hopes and dreams and understandings of the reign of God in our midst.

OFFERTORY

Arietta Op. 12 No. 1—Edvard Grieg

**RESPONSE #150 As With Gladness Men of Old**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the 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 heavenly king.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**We bring these gifts to you, O God. May they help to proclaim good news, bring justice and liberty and healing where they are needed and comfort to those mourn. And to these same ends we dedicate our lives also. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**Here they are, wonderful God.**

Let us give thanks to the God who has made us.

**We are ready to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right that we praise you...as we praise your holy name singing:

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.**

We sing for joy.....and so we pray as Jesus prayed saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (unison)

**Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love and light for all those who are around us and for those who share our lives. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #666 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright**

**\*CHARGE & BLESSING** (responsive)

We have received the light of God in the words of scripture,

**in the faithful witness of our sisters and brothers,**

in the bread and grape of the table,

**in the music of our voices.**

Go now to share this light in words of peace,

**in a witness of love**

in the sharing of wealth,

**in the joy of good news. Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Suite Bergamasque: IV. Passepied—Claude Debussy