



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epiphany of the Lord

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Charles Tuttle, liturgist

January 12, 2025

Andrew Morris, organist

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

Introit

Wexford Carol

Call To Worship

One: God of the weary traveler, our feet are dusty from the roads we've traveled this past week, this past year, every day of our lives.

All: We've followed your star here, looking for a glimmer of hope.

One: And now, after a long journey, we set our baggage down.

All: We have arrived. We're here, and we're on holy ground.

One: You may not show up where we expect you, but we trust that you are here, nevertheless.

All: Be known to us in the hope of the star,

One: The peace of a baby snuggled in the manger,

All: The joy of arrival, and Love that could not stay away.

One: We are here.

All: You are here.

One: And we are so very grateful.

* Hymn of Praise

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1,2,5)
KINGS OF ORIENT

Glory to God #151

* Call To Confession

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

One: Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like the three wiseman who set off on an adventure. And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the journey of the magi. Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us. Friends, let us pray:

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to follow the stars you place in our midst to see your hope for the world You created. With open hearts we pray, amen.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

One: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God.

So, hear and repeat these words after me: I am God's beloved.

All: I am God's beloved.

One: I am forgiven.

All: I am forgiven.

One: I am blessed and sent to serve.

All: I am blessed and sent to serve.

One: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

* **Passing the Peace**

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Children's Moment

Pastor Helen

Prayer of Illumination

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

Gracious God, when our world turns upside down or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual. We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at table. We pour water. We greet one another as family. And we listen to your Word. Today we pray - meet us in this moment. Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope. We are listening. We are drawing near. We are seeking you. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 60:1-6

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

Special Music

The Work of Christmas
DAN FORREST

Ensemble Singers

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

"Stars"

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Elders

Erinn Barcomb Peterson, Cherie Elo, Chris Heider, Jim Rumsey, and Larry Schlosser

Deacons

Deborah Summers-Norwood, Joyce Carroll, Lucille Eggenberger, Sandy Groene, Diana Schoneweis

Hymn

The First Nowell (verses 1-3)
THE FIRST NOWELL

Glory to God #147

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(as translated by the Maori people)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Offering and Star Words

Andrew Morris, organist

* Doxology

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)

Glory to God #144

*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 my heart*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Jesus Christ and his gospel, born to us all so long ago in Bethlehem of Judea. We believe in him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom there was no room in the inn. We believe in him whose guiding star brought together to his manger the humble shepherds and the wise men. We believe in him whose guiding star can bring together in his name the humble and the wise everywhere.

We believe in him who walked among the common people, and who was welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts, whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick and afflicted, welcomed and accepted as their Lord and Savior. We believe in him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in him whose love changed human hearts for the better, and whose life and death on the cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest are those who give their lives in service for others. We believe in him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples, everywhere.

We believe that the Christmas spirit — the Spirit of Christ — is the Spirit that can change the world for the better through the power of love, faith and hope.

* Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come!
JUNKANOO

Glory to God #744

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

We hope you will stay after worship for a few minutes and help us un-decorate! Thank you.

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Kerry McLay**, daughter of **Alois McLay**, died December 29th. Services will be held later.
- **FPC member Jan Erland** died on December 29th. Services are pending.
- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke** is asking for prayers for her husband.
- **Michael Devlin** is hospitalized at LMH and is now in rehab to regain strength.
- **Bruce Humphreys**, step-father of **Robert Mugridge**, asks for our prayers.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.

- Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- Tanja Rounds is dealing with a brain tumor. Prayers appreciated.
- Tim Dutcher, son of Lois and David Dutcher, had a kidney transplant. Tim is home and doing well.
- Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- George Crump is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law, is healing following cancer surgery.
- Prayer for our pastor and church leaders, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- Allison Clunn-McPlin and family, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- Prayers for those facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Vic and Dianne Sisk and Cherie Zelig

Greeters: Heather Soper

Securing the Offering: Mark Shiflett and Jan Roth

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer:

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca Charles Tuttle N-Q Peggy Southard

Ce-Do Janet Adams Mc-Mz Becky May

Dr-F Diana Schoneweis R-Si Linda Longino

G-Ha Larry Schlosser SI-T Russ Heikes

He-Ko Mary Warren U-Z Allen Macfarlane

Kr-Ma Lois Dutcher

Birthdays in the Congregation

January 6	January 9
Mary Corman	Erin Derby
Sam Emert	January 10
January 7	Liz Cloutman
Eva Alley	January 11
January 9	Carl Locke
Lois Dutcher	January 12
Heather Soper	Eric Dyck
January 13	January 19
Sandy Groene	Lisa Ball

Calendar

January 12	
9:15 am	Sunday School for Children
9:15 am	Earth Care Forum
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Un-decorate the Sanctuary!
January 13	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Meeting – Schwaller
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
January 14	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
2:30 pm	Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting
6:30 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
January 15	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
January 16	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
January 17	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
January 19	
9:15 am	Earth Care Forum
9:15 am	Sunday School for Children
10:30 am	Worship:
11:30 am	Youth Winter Retreat

Children and Youth

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino

Youth Activities

- January
 - MISSION, SERVICE, FUN and FOOD: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19th – 11:30am to 6 pm – Watch for more information