



January 9, 2022

The Celebration of Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our Facebook page - [First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana](#). We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

**Let those who are able stand at this sign.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Improvisation on *The First Nowell*

THE INTROIT

"Here is the Little Door"

Herbert Howells

*Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep, but holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.*

- Frances Chesterton

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Arise, shine; for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
All **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**
One Nations will come to his light,
and rulers will seek his radiance.
All **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**
One He will judge the people with righteousness
and defend the cause of the poor.
All **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One The mystery of the ages is revealed;
the eternal plan of God is known to all.

All Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

One Let us kneel down before him
to give him honor, glory, and praise.

All Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

One Let us offer him all the treasures
of our hearts and our lives.

All Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

***THE OPENING CAROL . . . no. 147**

The First Nowell/English Carol
English Carol

"The First Nowell"

All The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Low And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
Voices to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

High This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
Voices and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Choir Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

All Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

***THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.
We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

***THE SILENT CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 150** (*verse 4*)
"As With Gladness Men of Old"

Dix/Conrad Kocher
William Chatterton Dix

**Holy Jesus, every 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.**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
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.
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.
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 PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

One Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**All that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
One that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
**All He shall defend the needy among the people
and shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
One He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
**All He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

One In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**All The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

One All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**All For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

One He shall have pity on the lowly and poor
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**All He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

THE ANTHEM

"Bethlehem Down"

Peter Warlock

*"When he is King we will give Him the Kings' gifts, myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.
Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight - winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.
When He is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets, myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.
Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming, close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

- Bruce Blunt

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wisemen from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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." When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

"Troubling Times"

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 149**

"All Hail to God's Anointed"

*Rockport/Thomas Tertius Noble
James Montgomery*

All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son!
All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression and rule in equity.

You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in your sight.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

All rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring.
All nations shall adore you; your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend.
Your rule is still increasing; your rule is without end.

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(in unison)*

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

- from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Old Hundredth
Thomas Ken*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Spoken Prayers

One Gracious God, Lord of Light,
All **hear our prayer.**

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 152

Puer Nobis Nascitur/Trier Manuscript, 15th C

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

Charles Coffin

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?

'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed;"

and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

God Be with You/ William G. Tomer

*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

- Jeremiah Eames Rankin

*THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Rev. Kevin Scott Fleming
Liturgist Gary Morris
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres is grateful to be able to continue **in-person worship**. If you're joining us in-person, please wear a mask, use sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. We ask everyone to wear masks so that those who are unable to be vaccinated are protected while we are together.

The **annual meeting of the congregation** will take place next Sunday, **January 16, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service**. The meeting will also be available on the church website. We will elect new elders, deacons, and trustees, as well as at-large members of the Congregation's Nominating Committee for 2022. Additionally, we will approve proposed changes to the terms of the Pastor's compensation.

Make new connections, memories, and have fun with your First Pres friends at **Game Night** tonight! First Light invites all **Junior- and Senior- High School** ages to the kickoff of 2022 youth programming at **6:30 p.m. tonight** in the education wing.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Jill Griffin

Sunday, January 9

Daily Reading: Psalm 93

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 1:30 p.m. Bible Bunch (online)
- 6:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, January 10

Daily Reading: John 6:1-14

Tuesday, January 11

Daily Reading: John 6:15-27

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbells and Handchimes
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 12

Daily Reading: John 9:1-12, 35-38

- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, January 13

Daily Reading: John 10:7-17

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 14

Daily Reading: John 14:6-14

Saturday, January 15

Daily Reading: Isaiah 61:1-9



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www.firstpresevansville.com

First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with
the Covenant Network
of Presbyterians.

