



January 8, 2023

10:30 a.m.

The Celebration of Epiphany

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchEvansvilleIndiana). 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 WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"The Wise Men" from *La Nativité*

Oliver Messiaen

THE INTROIT

"A New Year Carol"

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear, for to worship God with, this happy New Year.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;

the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,

open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

- Walter de la Mare

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All **The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.**
All are welcomed to the brilliance of God's dawn.

One God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

All **Responding in praise, let us worship God!**

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 152**

Puer Nobis Nascitur; 15C manuscript
Charles Coffin

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

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 CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead the magi to Jesus, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent the Son into the world - not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the Gospel:

All **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 145, verse 3**

Greensleeves; 16thC English Ballad
William Chatterton Dix

“What Child is This?”

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 WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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 in 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.
One The Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM

"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.*

*Bend low about His bed, for each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.*

- Frances Chesterton

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's Moment, those in PreK through 5th grades may go to Sunday School. Parents may pick up their children after worship from Room 104 in the education wing.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Rev. Susan McGhee

"A Journey and a Gift"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 151**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Kings of Orient
John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

***THE PROFESSION OF OUR CHURCH'S FAITH** *(in unison)*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

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, PC(USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

Envelopes are available in the pew rack, or you may give online at firstpresevoansville.com/giving

"Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"

Johann Pachelbel

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 607
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Old Hundredth
Neil Weatherhogg

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

THE LEAVE-TAKING LITURGY

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

One All these we lift to the Lord;
All Lord, hear our prayer.

The Spoken Prayers

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 SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*THE CLOSING HYMN. . . no. 141

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

Personent Hodie
Piae Cantiones

**On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.
Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ide-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.
Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ide-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.
Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ide-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.
Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ide-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Amen I"

Robert Nicholls

THE POSTLUDE

Leading worship this morning:

Bridge Co-Pastors John and Wendy VanderZee
Guest Preacher Susan McGhee
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Organist Neal Biggers

We welcome and thank the Rev. Susan McGhee for joining our worship today. Rev. McGhee is the Executive Presbyterian of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, of which First Pres is a member.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The First Pres Session continues to monitor local pandemic conditions and modify our **COVID safety protocols** as conditions warrant. **The current CDC Level is Red/High;** please wear a mask, use sanitizer, and practice social distancing.

The Mission Committee **serves lunch** at United Caring Services on the second Friday of each month. If you'd like to join the cooking or serving crew this **Friday, January 13**, please contact Debbie Meyer (debbiejmeyer@outlook.com; 812-568-6102). Preparations for the taco-themed lunch will begin at UCS at 10:15 a.m.

Our **One God, One Community** family is growing! Memorial Baptist Church has joined the OGOC partnership and will host the first event of this year. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration will take place next **Sunday, January 15, 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church** (Canal and Walnut Streets). Mark your calendar and plan to welcome our new OGOC partner congregation.

Due to the recent inclement weather, the planned **Habitat build days** that were to happen this weekend have been **cancelled**. We will keep you informed as new dates for helping build the next interfaith house are scheduled.

Families of PreK-grade 5 children are encouraged to attend brief a **Sunday School meet-and-greet** session. You have two opportunities to meet other Sunday School families and teachers: **Sunday, January 22 and February 12**, both at **11:30 a.m.** in room 104 of the Education wing.

All are welcome to add to the beauty of our Sunday worship by providing **flowers** to be displayed at that day's service. They may be fresh flowers or silk/faux arrangements, and can be ordered by the donor or the church office. To see a list of available dates and choose one to provide flowers for, you can follow the link in the article "**Flowers for Worship**" on the church website, or call the church office. Thank you!

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Casey Calvert

Sunday, January 8

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Music Support Committee
5:30 p.m. First Light

6:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 11

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, January 12

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

Monday, January 9

Tuesday, January 10

3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
4:45 p.m. Handbells/Handchimes

Friday, January 13

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 14