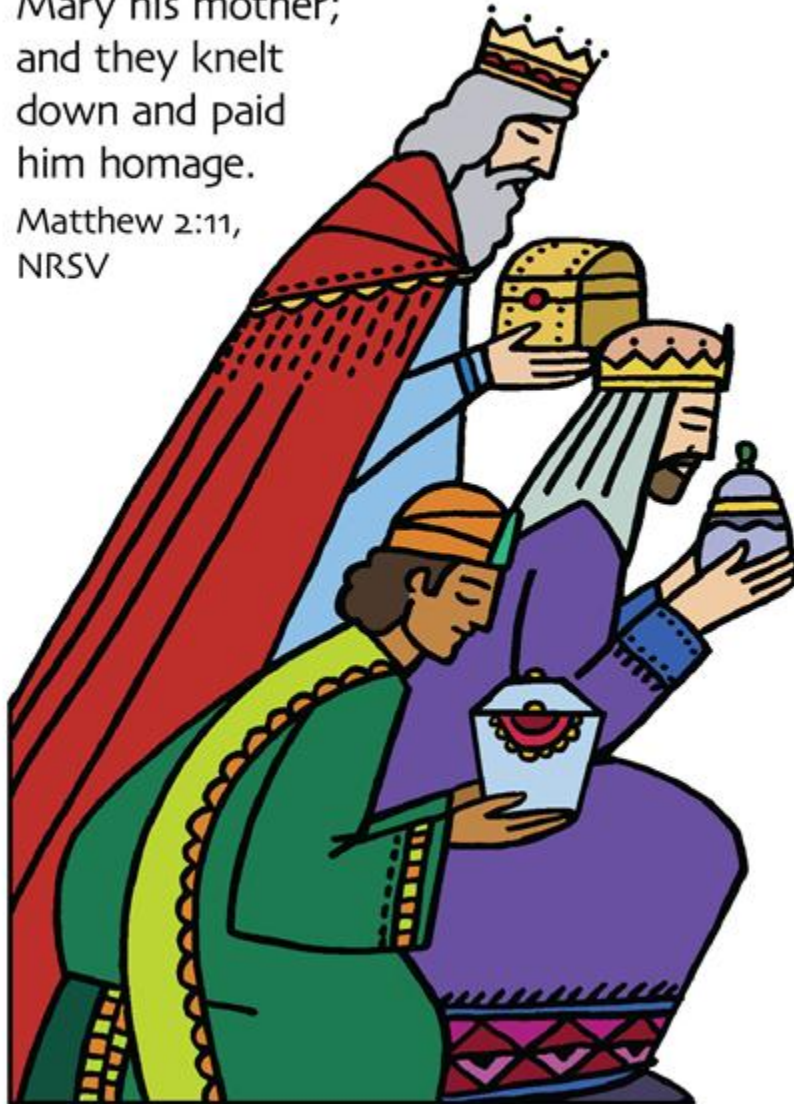


On entering the house,  
they saw the child with  
Mary his mother;  
and they knelt  
down and paid  
him homage.

Matthew 2:11,  
NRSV



## **First Presbyterian Church**

Service for the Lord's Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

### **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Music: Hymn 155

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Jesus, the Light of the World”  
Frank Jones, soloist

arr. Tom Fettke

Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1-2

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.**

\* Hymn 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**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.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response (to Hymnal 151)

**O star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright.**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (OT, p. 672)

Psalter: Psalm 72 (Hymnal 149)

A Time with Children

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (NT, p. 2)

Sermon: “The Dark Side of Epiphany”

Rev. Carter

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 147

“The First Nowell” (verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

\* Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed (Hymnal, p. 34)

Offering

Offertory

“As with Gladness, Men of Old” arr. Malcom Archer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Hymnal, p. 8)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal, p. 35)

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.*

Prayers of the People

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "March of the Kings" arr. Jason Dixon

*If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Director of Music

Organist

Liturgist

Rev. William Carter

Jana Schillinger

Frank Jones

Kay Ten Eyck

Jeff McLaughlin

**The communion elements now include a gluten-free bread option.** The crackers placed in the middle of each bread plate are gluten-free. Also, individually sealed, gluten-free "communion packs" can be found in a basket with the bulletins at the back of the sanctuary. If you have a sensitivity to gluten, please, take advantage of the gluten-free items.

**First Presbyterian Church  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
570/586-6306  
www.fpccs.org**

## Church Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

Thank you for joining us for Worship.

- Join us at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

This morning for our children:

- The Nursery is staffed regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 11:10 a.m. Located in room 208 (sanctuary level), it is furnished with a changing table, and age-appropriate toys and books for children ages 3 and younger.
- Bible Time leaders will be sharing about Epiphany (the wise men), baptism, temptation, and God's good news.

**What does Epiphany mean, in practical terms? It's time to put the Christmas decorations away!** We will be "undecorating" the sanctuary after the 10:00 a.m. service. A light lunch will be provided. Please join us in helping to remove the Christmas decorations to return them to their storage places until next year. The more the merrier!

**Our Wednesday Adult Bible Study resumes this week at 5:45.** The Bible study is called "*Wintering in Corinth*," which means the group will dig into Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church. Want to begin the New Year with a group that studies the Bible and enjoys one another? Come and join us!

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

Please pray for: Hall, Judy, Renee, Clyde, Emily, Denise, Sawyer, Marion, Nancy J., Debbie S., Jerry, Dawn, Chris, JoAnne, Sue, Jeanette, Rob, Lucy, Dennis V., Marlene, Yaya and Fedeline, Ann, Tim, Hooper family, Bill, Mike, Jason, Bobby, Craig K., Gary K., Phil, the Garnecki family, Tucker, Frank, Cheryl, Kathy, Tim, Wayne, Ray, Caleb, Jon, Char.

**The Mobile Food Pantry** will distribute food again on January 9. Pre-registration is required. Contact [fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com) or church office at 570-586-6306.

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, January 5, 2025

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11:15, Undecorating the sanctuary

Tuesday, January 7

- 7 p.m., Mission and Justice, Room 206

Wednesday, January 8

- 9 a.m., Presbyter Mailing, Room 206
- 5:45 p.m., Adult Christian Education, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Adult Choir resumes, Sanctuary
- 8 p.m., Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 9

- 4-6 p.m., Mobile Food Pantry distribution, Room 206
- 5:30 p.m., Worship, Music and Arts, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Christian Education, Room 206

Sunday, January 12

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following "A time with Children," Bible Time
- "We Worship Together" program for pre-confirmation children, grade 6 and up.

Looking ahead:

Sunday, February 2      LIFT: Living in Faith Together program

Sunday, February 9      Annual Meeting