

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR DEREK FORBES &

PASTOR MEG VAIL

JANUARY 3RD, 2021

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Meg or Pastor Derek

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Meg

One: After Jesus was born, the Magi followed the star until it stopped over the place in which our Savior rested with the holy family in Bethlehem.

Many: Though the night be dark and times are difficult, a new light shines for us!

One: Arise! Shine! God's light has come to us all. Let us seek and find Him anew.

Many: We waited for His birth, and in Him God's love burns brightly in our lives.

One: Let us praise the God of hope and promise, the source of our Christmas joy!

Many: Let us live as people of new light and hope!

OPENING HYMN #610

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pastor Meg

Children of God, this is our prayer. Be near us, Lord Jesus; guide us and journey with us as we live in hope, a people who have seen God's salvation. As we embrace the light of Christ that has come to us, let us confess those things that keep us from being close to our Lord, and that keep us from bearing His divine light in our world.

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, 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. Amen.

Time for Silent Personal Confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The waters of our earth remind us of the waters of baptism, in which we are cleansed from our sin and renewed by the grace of God. See this water and remember that God desires to be close to you. Hear the sounds of the water as it rushes forward and remember that God's grace washes over us and restores us. Let us live as a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)

Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Pastor Meg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

All Creatures of Our God and King

Westminster Bell Choir

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor Meg

In this sacrament, we remember and celebrate what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Around the Table of the Lord, God's people are in communion with Christ and with all who belong to him. We receive God's grace. We are empowered to live as Jesus' disciples in our daily lives. Our Savior invites all those who trust him to share this feast which has been prepared.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Communion of God's People

Prayer after Communion

CLOSING HYMN #110

"Love Has Come"

SENDING OUT INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION
WORSHIP IN SONG
POSTLUDE

Pastor Meg
 “Go Now in Peace”
 Brandon Clayton

Announcements:

- Session has unanimously voted that we continue with video worship through January. Most in-person church events remain on hold until further notice. The ministry of the church, however, continues!
- Adult Sunday School **today** at 4pm on Zoom; Twelve-Week Study entitled “Unraveled”
- Youth Group Resumes **tomorrow night** with at-Home Activities from 6-8pm

Weekly Financial Update through 12/31/20	
Week of	Weekly Contribution Needed: \$6,053
12/6	\$8,901
12/13	\$30,365
12/20	\$3,151
12/27	\$5,037
Current Contributions for 2020:	\$288,522
Current Expenditures for 2020:	\$280,824
Operating Budget for 2020:	\$314,778
Do you know that you can contribute via check, cash, direct deposit, Venmo, or RMDs through your retirement account? Your offerings support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Payroll is paid on last business day of the month.	