

Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.

*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude *He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising* arr. Manz

The Call to Worship

Come, let us praise God who sent Jesus into this world.

He was the long-awaited Messiah, our Savior.

Come, let us seek after God, just as those who followed the star.

They went in search for him, desiring to worship the King of Israel.

Come, let us worship God, just as those who found the Christ child.

They bowed down and worshipped him, offering him gifts.

Come, let us all sing praises to our heavenly Lord.

*The Hymn of Praise *The First Nowell, verses 3-6* 56

*The Call to Confession

God has called us out of darkness and into the glorious light of his presence. This is only possible because the true light, Jesus, came into this world to offer his life for the forgiveness of our sins. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*The Prayer of Confession

God of love and light, you once used a star to lead people to the Christ child. We confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused and easily distracted. We lose our way. We fail to watch and listen. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness. [Silent Confession.]

Lord, the Magi followed the star to worship you, while Herod sought to harm you. We confess our impure motives, for there are times that we seek you merely out of obligation or

for what you can do for us. Forgive our insincerity. [Silent Confession.] **Merciful God, give us pure hearts that long for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*The Assurance of Pardon

Jesus was the true light that came into this world and gave light to everyone. To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he has given the right to become children of God. Friends, our sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response *Angels We Have Heard on High*(chorus) 23
Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo

*The Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *Joy to the World* Handel

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The New Testament Reading *Matthew 2:1-12* page 2 NT

The Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6* page 807 OT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*(traditional) hymnal, page 14

*The Hymn *We Three Kings of Orient Are, verses 1-4* 66

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is...

...We worship and adore your glorious name, saying together:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Most righteous God...

...Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit...

...We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and

lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For

thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Hold the bread until all have been served. We will eat it together,

symbolizing our unity in Christ. Drink the cup when it is served,

symbolizing your individual relationship with Christ.)

Response of Praise and Prayer *We Three Kings of Orient Are, verse 5*

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory

A Joyous Carol

Roques

*The Doxology

Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 4

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your

voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and

worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

*The Prayer of Dedication

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

January 7, 2024



EPIPHANY

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Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.

*The Hymn *As with Gladness Men of Old, verses 1-3* 63

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Congregational Response *Go with Us, Lord* 535
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

*Postlude *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Hopkins

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist : Genie Herter
Ushers:
Greeter: Billie Bauer
Fellowship Hour:
Musical Talents: Laurel Taipale
Communion Servers: Pete & Ginny Brucker and Pam Moran

For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.



The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called **The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 4, 2024 immediately following worship.** Any business of the congregation or corporation can be conducted.



Busy Hands and Hearts

Busy Hands meets the **FIRST** Monday of the month. November meeting will be **Monday, January 8** from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We would like to welcome anyone interested in coming and seeing for themselves what we are about. You do not need to knit or sew to come! If you have any questions, please call Pam Moran 989-792-7388

Florence Gilmour Circle

All women of the church are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 10,** at 9:30 a.m. as we continue watching and discussing the DVD “The Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey.



January Mission Focus will once again be taking a collection at the end of the month for “2 Coins a Meal” to help combat hunger. This is a wonderful program to help combat hunger – both globally (through PCUSA Hunger Program) and locally (through local food pantries) to help alleviate hunger in our community. We invite you to begin gathering any spare change you may have at home; the collection will be January 28. A little goes a long way!

Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools have been closed due to inclement weather (snow, ice, temperatures, etc.), any church programming for that day will also be cancelled. This includes any activity of the church or outside groups that use church facilities. Examples are (but not limited to): Session, Committee meetings, Choirs, Bible Study, Women’s Circle, Community events.



Prayer of Illumination

Lord, darkness may cover the earth, but we pray that you would rise upon us. May your glory appear to all the world. Help us to lift our eyes to you, to hear you speak, and to listen with open hearts to your gospel. Empower us to respond to you with obedience and help us to be your shining lights in this world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, Amen.

Matthew 2:1-12 New International Version

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” **3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”^[b]

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Isaiah 60:1-6 NIV

60 “Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.