



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 72

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.
For he delivers the needy when they call;
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy.
And saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence, he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.
Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 63 (V.1-4)

As with Gladness Men of Old

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As with gladness, O Lord, we behold the gleaming light leading us onward, beaming bright. But we confess, Lord, that we often lose sight of that gleaming light and allow our troubles and worries to dim its brilliance, if not render our eyes blinded to its glory. We fret over important issues that confront us, such as our health or the health of loved ones. Or we may be troubled over our financial situation or that of other family members. And perhaps, the silly and unimportant worries of our lives get just too much attention. Regardless of our concerns, Lord, we need to keep our attention focused on the true Light of your love, faithfulness and mercy. Send your Spirit to help us keep in mind that regardless of the darkness, you are always present in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Light that guided the Magi to the Christ Child continues to guide us and to reassure us that Christ is the Light of the world and through that Light, we are redeemed in the sight of God. Hallelujah!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

What Are We Seeking?

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

The Chancel Choir

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!

Shall we then yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus of all the saints to sing:

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, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The elements will be served to you at your seat; please hold them and all will partake together.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 66 (V.1-5)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Chris Gulotta and Susan Charlton, Communion Servers

Susan and Art Charlton, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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