

through forgiveness. All this by the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, who with Creator and Christ brings New Life.

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir)

#572, The Hymnal

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

John Dillon

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#28, Lift Up Your Hearts

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearing God's Word

TIME FOR CHILDREN

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #68 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* "Puer Nobis Nascitur"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Genesis 1:1-5

pew Bible p. 1

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

Matthew 1:4-11

pew Bible pp. 32-33

THE ANTHEM

Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

"Epiphany Song"

Bring we the frankincense of our love to the feet of the Holy Child.
Ever remembering God's great gift of a love that is undefiled.

Holy the Infant and holy the mother
and holy and precious the gifts that we bring;
Praise to the Father and praise to the Spirit and
Praise to Christ Jesus, our King.

Ever secure in His changelessness, though the kingdoms of earth may fall, Bring we the gold
of our faithfulness to the King who is Lord of all.

THE SERMON

"Immediately"

Rev. John Dillon

Our Response to God's Love

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess

and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the Godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends.

That same eternal God and Father, who by grace alone chose us in his Son Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world was laid, appointed him to be our head, our brother, our pastor, and the great bishop of our souls.

—Chapter 3, 3:06-3:08, Scots Confession (1560)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

The Star Proclaims the King is Here

Pachelbel

* THE DOXOLOGY

#592, The Hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* THE HYMN OF PARTING #66

We Three Kings

"Three Kings of Orient"

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.**

Going Forth in God's Love

* THE POSTLUDE

Three Kings

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION–CORPORATION of The First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **Sunday, January 25, 2009**. The purposes of the meeting are:

- To hear the Annual Report of the Session
- To elect an Auditor to the Auditing Committee
- To receive the report of the Nominating Committee
- To elect a Nominating Committee for the coming year, and
- To conduct any other business properly coming before the Congregation-Corporation.

—By Order of the Session
J. David Stickler, Clerk of Session

Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

Music Notes

The music for this morning reflects the Feast of Epiphany with the Visit of the Wise Men. The Prelude is a set of variations with different organ sounds and styles based on the beautiful hymn "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star." (#69 in our Hymnal) The entire first verse of the hymn will then be sung by the choir as the Introit.

About the Affirmation of Faith

The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is a collection of Confessions from the church in many ages and many different situations. Therefore, its expressions of faith cover a multitude of theological opinions, many of which are obviously influenced by who participated in their preparation and the times and customs of their era. While not necessarily agreeing with every statement precisely, our Ministers, Elders, and Deacons swear to be guided by its principles and truths. We select a passage from one of these Confessions each month to experience and explore the breadth and depth of our heritage.

For the month of January, we will be using an extract from the *Scots Confession*. The *Scots Confession*, charter document of the Church of Scotland, emerged from a protracted period of political and ecclesiastical turmoil during which religious leadership often proved a risky business. In 1560, the Scottish Parliament commissioned six prominent ministers (John Douglas, John Knox, John Row, John Spottiswood, John Willock and John Winram) to write a statement of Protestant Christian faith. Knox, who during periods of exile had studied in Geneva with John Calvin and also ministered to the English-speaking congregation there, is generally thought to have exerted a strong influence over the document.

What's Happening This Week:



SUNDAY, JANUARY (11)

- 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Library
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, Baptism of the Lord Sunday,
On the Air WCBC
- 4:30 PM GAFOSAC Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY (12)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 10:00 AM Pastor's Book Study

TUESDAY, JANUARY (13)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 5:30 PM Pee Wee Teams Basketball Practice
- 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (14)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 5:00 PM Building & Grounds Committee Mtg
- 6:00 PM Middler Team Basketball Practice
- 6:15 PM JoyBells Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Seniors Team II Basketball Practice
- 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 PM Seniors Team I Basketball Practice

THURSDAY, JANUARY (15)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School

FRIDAY, JANUARY (16)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School

SATURDAY, JANUARY (17)

- 9:00 AM Session Elder Training

SUNDAY, JANUARY (18)

- 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Library
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Jean Kobert, guest pianist, On the Air WCBC,
Dedication of the 2009 Pledges, Youth Group from Decatur, IL Visiting