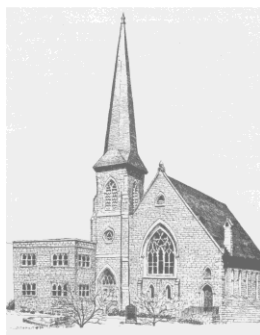


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY THE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 17, 2021 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

PRELUDE: MIDNIGHT STARS MAKE BRIGHT THE SKIES
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

ROBERTA ROLAND-RAYBOLD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME , ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

* HYMN #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

"ST. DENIO"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the scriptures: "...that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (2 Corinthians 5:19) Friends trust the Good News from the Lord: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

* SUNG RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 1: 1-5, 14-19

1 In the beginning when God created^[a] the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And

it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

ANTHEM

WE SHALL OVERCOME
ADAM POMEROY, SOLOIST

TRADITIONAL

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JOHN 1: 1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, ⁵and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

SERMON

“THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

REV. DR. JAMES RM. YOUNG

* HYMN #314

LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS

“CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT”

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NATION, ENDING WITH 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.

* HYMN #673

JESUS, LIGHT OF JOY

“LAUDA ANIMA”

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #750

GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL

“GOODNESS IS STRONGER”

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

FIAT LUX
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

THEODORE DUBOIS

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
Liturgist.....Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musician.....Adam Pomeroy, Soloist
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler

Music Notes

This morning's prelude is a serene and mystical setting of a hymn for the season of Epiphany, from China. The tune and the text of **Midnight Stars Make Bright The Skies** both date from the 1930's.

Though now primarily associated with the Civil Rights movement of the mid-20th century, the spiritual **We Shall Overcome** most likely dates from the days of the slave trade. Similarities with other tunes may suggest that the song, or at least the tune, was used as a work song aboard slave ships.

The postlude is one of the best known organ works of the late French romantic composer Théodore Dubois (1837-1924.) Starting softly and building to full organ, the work is a sonic depiction of its title **Fiat Lux**, meaning: Let there be light!

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG, MODERATOR OF THE SESSION
JEFF GETTY, CLERK

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Courtney: Building & Grounds
Laura Fiscus: Mission
Josh Gilhart: Faith Formation
Aaron Hendrickson: Mission

CLASS OF 2022

Cindy Corley: Administration & Finance
Gary Hendrickson: Administration & Finance
David Stickler: Worship & Music
Evan Swanger: Building & Grounds

CLASS OF 2023

Kristina Hall: Congregational Care & Outreach
Janet Hendershot: Faith Formation
Sharon Kazary: Worship & Music
Jan Layman: Congregational Care & Outreach

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of January 10, 2021
Total 2020 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2020 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$8,113.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$7,454.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 658.00

ONLINE PLEDGE SUBMISSION NOW AVAILABLE: This year, we have created a way to submit your pledges online via our webpage. If you are interested in submitting your pledge online, please visit <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/pledge/>.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: KRISTINA HALL & JAN LAYMAN

NOON PRAYER INVITATION: The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee invites you to join them in communal prayer, every day at Noon, Monday through Saturday, just for 5 minutes. It will give you a quiet mini retreat in the middle of a busy day, or a sense of a virtual community in case you are suffering from quarantine loneliness. You can pray anywhere, any prayer, any language, and know that someone from our Congregation is there with you in spirit.

The best way to be in sync is to put the Noon Prayer into the Alarm on your cell phone - at least that is how some of us do it. Thank you for joining us! - and if you miss, do not worry, we will pray for you.

Christmas Fundraiser 2020

- ✝ To the Glory of God in honor of John and Eleanor Johnson by Carl and Jane Belt
- ✝ To the Glory of God in honor of the Worship & Music Committee by Sandra Burton
- ✝ To the Glory of God in honor of Bryan Lohr and Judie Brown by Deb and Gary Hendrickson
- ✝ To the Glory of God in honor of all first responders, all essential workers and all medical workers in all their levels of care giving
- ✝ To the Glory of God in memory of W. Edward Solomon and Eleanor Solomon by Elaine Solomon
- ✝ To the Glory of God in honor of Joe Arigemma and Eric Ringler for their excellence in providing the virtual Sunday Services by David and Mildred Stickler

In the place of the Christmas Music Offering this year, Session has approved the motion presented by the Worship & Music Committee to collect funds to purchase a new projector for the sanctuary. The new projector will enhance our ability to stream and project during services and allow us to continue to host simulcast and movies in the future.

We have currently raised \$825.00 thanks to the generous donations from the members and friends listed above. Unfortunately, we are still in need of \$182.00 to fully pay for the projector and screen. Please consider making a donation to this project. Checks can be mailed to the Church Office and designated to the Sanctuary projector. We greatly appreciate your donations to make this project possible.