

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2, 2022

11:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY & INTROIT

“WIE SCHON LEUCHET DER MORGENSTERN”
(HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES THE MORNING STAR)
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN; THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
(Please see hymn# 827 for text.)

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE (1668-1707)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Arise, shine, for our light has come,

and the glory of our God has risen upon us.

All nations shall come to this light,

and rulers to the brightness of its dawning.

Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands; your daughters will be carried home. Our eyes shine with gladness,
and our hearts thrill with joy.

Now the glory of the Lord has risen.

Arise, shine! Our light has come!

Prayer

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #401

HERE IN THIS PLACE

“GATHER US IN”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, we confess we have foolishly participated in deeds of darkness, giving too little thought to your mission in this world, and to the boundless riches of your mystery revealed in Christ Jesus. We have ignored, frustrated, or resisted the unity of the body that he came to establish. We have been slow to intercede for others and timid in asking for your purposes to be fulfilled. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to the mission and the mind of Christ.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 147:12-20

- ¹² Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.
¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.
¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.
¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.
¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?
¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

ROBERT J. POWELL (1932 -)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JULIE COURTNEY, PERCUSSION

From the eastern mountains wisemen haste from afar.
 Stirred by deep devotion , guided by a star.
 To the manger lowly where the Savior lay,
 Wondrous light has led them onward on their way.
 Light of Light that shineth to lead us to the birth,
 Draw thou near and lighten every heart on earth.
 Thou who in a manger once had lowly lain,
 Who dost now in glory o'er all kingdoms reign
 Gather in the nations those who've wandered far,
 Lead them by the brightness of thy guiding star.

SECOND READING

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

THIRD READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

"CHEERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #151

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

"KINGS OF ORIENT"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY

"HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES" VARIATION

BUXTEHUDE

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* DOXOLOGY #609

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"LASST UNE ERFREUEN"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Then the wise men searched to find Him!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Hear the story, see God's kingdom!

Alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Savior!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

* HYMN #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS

"SUO GAN"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #748

GO WITH US, LORD

"TALLIS' CANON"

* 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. Alison Peters
 Liturgist.....Josh Gilhart
 Organist.....Judith Brown
 Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, Flute; Julie Courtney, Percussion
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Bob & Sharon Kazary

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....Rev. Alison Peters
 Director of Music MinistriesJudith Brown
 Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson
 Sexton.....Zach Dodge
 Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma
 Audio/Video Technician.....Eric Ringler

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

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and William Ludman, by Dorothy Malcolm and family and in loving memory of Fran and Bill Tubbs, by Eva Wilson and Bill and Gail Tubbs. 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.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & JUDY STERN

FRIENDS OF PEB NEWS: A word from Veda: Every December in Pakistan we face thick smog, which is basically thick fog intensified by smoke, vehicles and industrial emissions fossil/fuel fire burning of waste materials and coal being burned by thousands of brick kilns.

Lahore suffers from high level of air pollution and is ranked as most polluted city. During heavy pollution days, offices and schools are closed to lessen human exposure and reduce traffic emissions. As per Government instruction the schools are now closed for 3 days, every week i.e. Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

December is also a month when Santa reaches many in PEB Schools, particularly the boarding house students, thanks to many, many friends who make it possible. May the spirit of Christmas infuse your life and that of your family members with hope, positivity and joy. Your gifts, donations bring smiles to many.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.