

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



*-Bulletin Artwork created by Julie Courtney*

## SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 1, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

FRENCH CAROLS  
THE THREE KINGS  
SON OF THE KING OF GLORY  
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ARR. LEON ROCQUE

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The story of God's redemption began long ago.

**God created the world and it was good.**

The story of God's redemption weaves through stories.

**Stories of women and men who lived their lives in faithfulness.**

The story of God's redemption is revealed in the coming of Christ.

**We celebrate his appearance.**

The story of God's redemption has a place for us -

**We are God's chosen family, and we have a place in the story.**

Let us pray -

God of all generations - we continue to venture with family on this sacred Christmas journey that beckons all to find where you are. As we join in the search, may we find you. May our hearts find your peace and love. Be with us as we celebrate and remember. Amen.

### \* HYMN #102

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

"NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND"

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, compassionate friend and gentle guide, you call us in all the seasons of life. In darkness and in light, in joy and in sorrow, you beckon us to follow you. Yet we hold back. We question how we know your voice, we make excuses of things we have to do or skills we lack. We look for the grand task, and you give us the common work of loving and caring for those near at hand. We look for recognition, and you want others to see you more. Love God, gentle friend and compassionate teacher, take us by the hand and lead us into your future, assured of your presence and encouragement. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

## RESPONSE #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (Verse 2)

“VENI EMMANUEL”

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## 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.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

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

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

## CAROL BY THE CHOIR

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

“IN DULCI JUBILO”

### SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 2:1-23

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>1</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” <sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the

magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

SERMON

GOD'S CHOSEN FAMILY: LOOK EAST AND WEST  
"SAFETY"

REV. ALISON PETERS

\* HYMN #145

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

"GREENSLEEVES"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

NOEL ANGEVIN  
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

CESAR FRANCK

\* DOXOLOGY #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (Verse 7)

"VENI EMMANUEL"

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\* 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

God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness and a star in every sky, and yet we prefer to walk in the darkness of despair and worry. We cover over the light of possibility with a flurry of worry. We walk bent over with care and concern and miss the reach of the stars. We fear the worst and distrust the best. We forge ahead on our own, not noticing your outstretched hand. We forget that there is never a moment that you are not with us, that your Son was called Emmanuel - God-with-us. You bring a candle of hope, the light of peace, and the radiance of joy. Shine your light on our path and walk with us through all our valleys with the sun at our backs. Amen.

\* HYMN #749

COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!

"WE ARE CALLED"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION (Verse 1)

From generation to generation, we have shared the Christmas story of a baby in a manger, who was born in Bethlehem. Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, joy we're singing, Love he's bringing. There is room for eve'ry story. There is hope through God's great glory.

\* 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**.

\*Please note that the church office will be **CLOSED** tomorrow, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of New Year's Day.

### This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....	Carolyn Mathews
Director of Music Ministries.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Brenda & Betty Luger

### OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries .....	Judith 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

Carolyn Mathews

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Gary Hendrickson

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Susan Mills

### FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

### MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

## 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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](https://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. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

**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 given to the Gory of God in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and William Ludman, by Dorothy Malcolm and family. 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.

**PASTOR ALISON'S AVAILABILITY:** Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

### Ways to contact Pastor Alison:

call, text, or email: 814-715-1681 / [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

To help with scheduling, please reach out to the Church Office:

Brittany Jackson: 301-777-3700 [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**  
**RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & GARY HENDRICKSON**

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of December 18, 2022</b>
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$202,976.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 31,100.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$171,876.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$173,578.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$168,668.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,909.00

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 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.**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**

**MONDAY, JANUARY (2)**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY (3)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
5:30 PM MISSION MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY (4)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING IN REV. PETERS' OFFICE  
5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING  
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

**THURSDAY, JANUARY (5)**  
**WINTER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
1:30 PM ANNUAL PRESSURE TEST

**FRIDAY, JANUARY (6)**

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**SATURDAY, JANUARY (7)**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY (8)**

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY