

GOOD MORNING! We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today (01/05)	9:30a 10:30a 11:30a	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> Sunday School Worship Service Removing of the Greens
Mon (01/06)	9:00a 9:00a 1:00p 6:30p	Bulletin Information Due Website Information Due Fellowship Committee Meeting TACC Meeting/Rehearsal
Tue (01/07)	10:00a	W&M Committee Meeting
Wed (01/08)	9:00a 7:00p	WW Meeting (Weight Watchers) Choir Rehearsal
Sat (01/11)	12-9p	Private Party
Sun (01/12)	9:30a 10:30a	Baptism of the Lord Sunday School Worship Service Installation of Elders—Class of 2027

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.

Removing of the Greens: Immediately following worship service today, we will remove all the Christmas decorations. The more individuals, the quicker the task will be completed. Thank you.

Annual Congregation Meeting: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, immediately following worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold the meeting of the Corporation, elect at-large members for the Nominating Committee, and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.

Pennies for Hunger: Don't forget to drop your pennies in the "Hunger" pail located in the Narthex.

Dollars-For-Missions: All loose dollar bills placed in the collection plates will be earmarked for mission work—divided between FPC Mission Team and a Salem Presbytery mission.

Blessing Box: Please continue to support the Blessing Box. It is being visited quite frequently and because of this we are in need of the following:

- ◆ Canned Vegetables
 - Green Beans
- ◆ Canned Pasta
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Canned Meat
 - Tuna, Chicken, Beef Stew, etc.
- ◆ Boxed Pasta
 - Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.
- ◆ Dry Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Ramen Noodles
- ◆ Instant Potatoes, Pasta and Rice Mixes
- ◆ Other Non-perishable Foods



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

January 5, 2025—Epiphany of the Lord

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, join the search for all God will reveal. We are the church, committed to an encounter with mystery.

All: *God has sent light to dispel our fears. The glory of God has risen upon us.*

One: The gospel of Christ reveals God's grace. We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

All: *We gather together and lift up our eyes. Our hearts thrill to the sight and our lips rejoice.*

One: Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known. There is a rich variety to meet each one where we are.

All: *The radiance of truth surrounds us. Boldly and confidently, we approach our God. Let us worship God!*

*HYMN NO. 150

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of sovereigns and commoners, we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people than we are with your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth are more real to us than the one who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than for justice for the poor. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Our pursuits do not satisfy; save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives. Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray.

(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.)

Amen.

RESPONSE

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God will judge us with righteousness and deliver us from the oppressive greed to which we have succumbed. The showers of God's blessings will fall on us like rain on new-mown grass. Peace will abound in the hearts of those who give help to the poor and needy. God commissions us, as fellow heirs with Christ, to fulfill the mission given to the saints. Friends, believe the good news...

All: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

All: *And also with you.*

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

"Finishing What We Start"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

***HYMN NO. 152** "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN NO. 151** "We Three Kings of Orient Are" KINGS OF ORIENT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Jan 05)

Greeters/Ushers: Joy Budkey, Jim Ingram

Serving Next Sunday (Jan 12)

Greeters/Ushers: Mike & Darcy Polinsky
Element Prep: Linda Volcek, Lynda Self
Assisting Elders: Linda Volcek, Nancy Bolen
Lynda Self, Nancy Sharp

*You may stand in body or spirit.

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