

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Epiphany of the Lord (observed)

January 3, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)



*In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, **please have your own bread and cup available at the beginning of worship** so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's worship.*

PRELUDE *Two Chorale Preludes* J.S. Bach
"Herr Christ, Der Einig' Gottes Sohn" (Lord Jesus Christ, God's Only Son)
"Lob Sei Dem Allmachtigen Gott" (Praised Be Almighty God)
Gordon Campbell, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Susan Dunlap

PRELUDE *Gaudete* Medieval carol, arr. by David Smith
FPC Wind Quintet

CALL TO WORSHIP Susan Dunlap

Leader: The Magi had a dream.

All: **They dreamed of a Messiah.**

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

Leader: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

All: **They journeyed to unknown places.**

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

Leader: So may we be like the Magi.

All: **May our dreams inspire action.**

May we worship the one true God.

HYMN NO. 152 (verses 1-2) *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* *Puer Nobis Nascitur*
What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.
'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God, we love to worship you when the stars are bright above us.
We love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.
We love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.
Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.
Now and again, the stars disappear.
Our feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.
On these days, forgive us for giving up quickly.
Forgive us for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.
We want to be as brave as the Magi.
We want to persevere.
Guide our feet.
Show us the stars.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 152, verse 4)

Puer Nobis Nascitur

***O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of the Milky Way,
we, like the Magi, are walking toward you.
One foot in front of the other,
we are walking toward you.
It is our very prayer to move your way.
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.
And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,
give us the will to persevere.
We are walking toward you, O God.
So like the parent who throws open the door,
open the door to us through these texts. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Wisdom of the Wise Ones"

John Weicher

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *A Sanctified Art resource*)

Mindy Douglas

**We believe in God,
who came to this earth as a child,
was born to unmarried teenage parents,
and was quickly made a refugee.
We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,
see the poor,
dine with outcasts,
welcome foreigners,
wash the feet of sinners,
offer second chances,
and bless the children.
And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.
The dream does not end with a manger.
The dream ends with God's promised day.
So until all God's children are home,
we will follow the Magi's lead—
walking, seeking, and looking up.
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.**

HYMN No. 151 (verses 1-3)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

***We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.***

Refrain: ***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!***

***Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.*** (Refrain)

***Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High.*** (Refrain)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Susan Dunlap

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
God of majesty and splendor.

By your power you created all that is,
making a universe out of chaos,
and ruling over all things in love.

Throughout the ages you called your people
to love and serve you,
and to be your light among the nations.

When we failed you, you did not fail us
but sent prophets to call us back to your ways.

We praise you that in the fullness of time,
you revealed your love by sending your Son Jesus
to be the Light of the world.

He came to heal our brokenness
and to set before us
the ways of justice and peace.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

He was born to dwell among us,
full of grace and truth;
in him we have seen your glory.

He lived for you, spoke your truth, and showed your love.

Lavished with gifts from the magi, he gave his life for others.

Baptized by John in the Jordan, he poured out his mercy for all.

Turning water into wine at a wedding, he transformed sorrow into joy.

In his death on the cross, he overcame death.

Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

(Intercessions for the church and the world)

Illumine our hearts, O God,
with the radiance of Christ's presence,
that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world.
Send us to befriend the lost,
to serve the poor,
to reconcile our enemies,
and to love our neighbors.
Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **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 No. 151 (verses 4-5)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

***Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*** (Refrain)

Refrain: ***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!***

***Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.*** (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

John Weicher

POSTLUDE

"In Dir Ist Freude" (In Thee Is Joy)

J.S. Bach

Gordon Campbell, organist

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On December 27, 94 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **poinsettias** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from **Arthur Clark**.

We are grateful to **Gordon Campbell** for serving as organist and interim music director while **Kathy Parkins** recovers from shoulder and bicep surgery.

Music Notes: Today's Prelude is an arrangement of the Christmas carol *Gaudete*, which was first published (with Latin lyrics) in 1581 in *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of Finnish and Swedish sacred songs. The lyrics are "Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!" Thanks to the First Presbyterian Wind Quintet (**Christyn Klinck, Sheya Wehrman, Li-Chen Chin, Brent Curtis, and David Smith**) for providing music for today's worship.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online worship services.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *A Sanctified Art and Book of Common Worship* (2018). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Sue and John Fricks** on the death of Sue's brother. **Phil Sampson** died December 31st in Clifton, VA. He suffered from Parkinson's disease and had recent falls which led to a hospitalization before Christmas. He was 73 years old.

Concerns:

Ade and Sowande, sons of Tolokun Omokunde, pastor of Timothy Darling PC in Oxford, have contracted the COVID-19 virus

Tom Bloom

Kerry Holbrook

Dewey Lawson

Robin Morey

Kathy Parkins

Jane Rourk

Nora and Alfred Tisdale

Carol Wills

The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

- ❖ **Evelyn Bass**, aunt of Valerie McMillian
- ❖ **Brendan Bequette**, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera
- ❖ **Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden

- ❖ **Linda Capers**, friend of Li-Chen Chin
- ❖ **Meg Courtney**, daughter of Bob and Mary Lee Clark, active friends of the congregation
- ❖ **Daniel Cheney**, brother of Johanna Bernhardt
- ❖ **Maureen Darcey**, friend of Brianna Bennett
- ❖ **Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation
- ❖ **Candee Herndon**, friend of Kathy Krahenbuhl
- ❖ **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson
- ❖ **Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman
- ❖ **Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, active friend of the congregation
- ❖ **Joe Rudigier**, brother of Jeanne Hervey

Church Staff Schedule

The church staff will continue working from home as they have been doing during the pandemic. The pastors and administrators will be reachable by text and mobile phone. Their church voicemail and email will be monitored, so feel free to reach out to them if you have a need or concern.

Caste
The Origins
of Our
Discontents
**Isabel
Wilkerson**
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
Author of THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

**Book Study
Tuesdays, 5 pm**

First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNlcrTmwXL29UclM4TG9odz09>

Study is led by Mindy Douglas
 Click [here](#) for ways to access the class.



"TIME OUT RADIO SHOW"

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Listen live at FM103.5 (Chapel Hill/ Carrboro area) or online at wcomfm.org

Bill Hendrickson will feature FPC member *Connel Fullenkamp* as his guest on Monday, January 4. He will

discuss American and international economics during and following this dreadful pandemic. Fullenkamp is Professor of the Practice of Economics and Director of Undergraduate Studies of Economics at Duke University. He specializes in the investigation of financial market development and regulation of financial markets.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Study books for 2020-2021 are still available at the church (in the Volunteer's office). Contact church staff if you need a copy. Contact [Linn Lopez](mailto:linnlopez@presbyterianwomen.org) (919-596-5707) for ways to connect with Presbyterian Women in 2021.



The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** [Marcia Lorimer](#) will be sending the link prior to the meeting. If you are new to this group, contact Marcia and she will email you the link. *Marila Cordeiro-Stone* will be leading a discussion of *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Join in even if you haven't finished the book.



Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m., for now on zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. Here are our speakers for January:

- January 5:** Susan Dunlap, "A Broken Heart Still Beats, Living with Traumatic Grief."
- January 12:** Pastor Scott Anderson, topic to be announced
- January 19:** Bill Dahl, Talismans, Relics and Souvenirs
- January 26:** Margaret Albert and Tracy Lamar of Duke Homecare & Hospice, "Community Bereavement Services offered by Duke Hospice Bereavement Services." This gives us a chance to learn about the resources available to the community from DHBS, including counseling, support groups, workshops, remembrance services and children's grief support. Explore the specific needs you and your family have in your grief process and resources that are available.

If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org for registration information.

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant



Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A



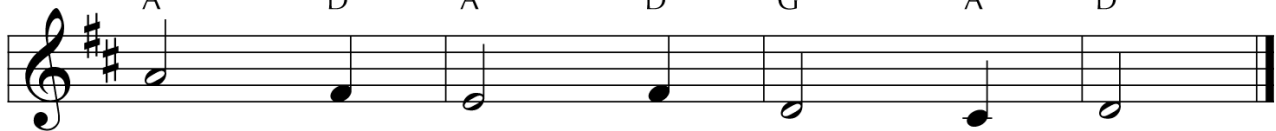
love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D



ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!