



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Sunday

5 January 2025

We believe that the consecration of Jesus was the ripe fruit of a lifelong process, the earliest stage of which was indicated in the question put to His mother in the temple; and the last in His sublime words in Gethsemane, “Not My will, but Thine be done.” —William Garden Blaikie

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—John 8:12

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Sung Response—O Splendor Of God’s Glory Bright, Vs. 1

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The lyrics are: "O splen-dor of God's glo - ry bright, O Thou that bring - est light from light, O Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of chords and single notes.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4th Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Call to Worship—Psalm 95:1-2; Isaiah 60:1-3

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

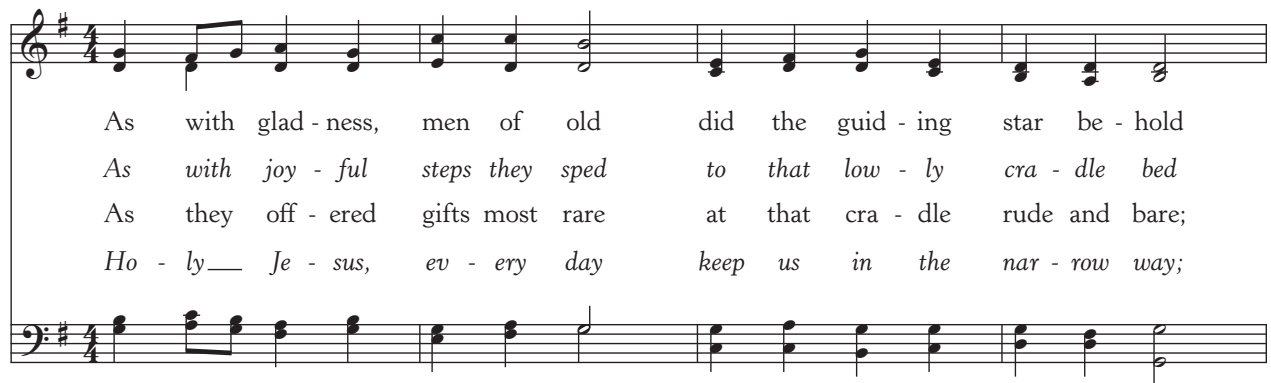
Reader 1: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Reader 2: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

All: But the Lord will arise upon us, and His glory will be seen upon us.

Pastor: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Congregational Hymn—As With Gladness, Men Of Old



As with glad - ness, men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold
As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly cra - dle bed
As they off - ered gifts most rare at that cra - dle rude and bare;
Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright
There to bend the knee be - fore Him Whom Heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with hol - y joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Congregational Psalm—Alleluia! How Blest The Man (Psalm 112)



A - le - lu - ia! How blest the man who great-ly__fears the Lord!
Light to the up - right shall a - rise, though he in__dark-ness be;
When e - vil ti - dings he shall hear, he shall not be a - fraid:
A - bun - dant wealth with - in his house shall ev - er__be in store;



Who dai - ly finds de - light with - in Je - ho - vah's Ho - ly Word
Com - pass - ion - ate, and mer - ci - ful and ev - er__just is he.
His__ heart is fixed, his__ con - fi - dence up - on the__ Lord is stayed.
And his un - spot - ted__ right - eous - ness en - dures for - ev - er - more.



His__ child - ren for their might shall be in__ all the land re - nowned;
There sure - ly is not__ an - y thing that ev - er shall him move:
Es - tab - lished firm - ly__ is his heart, a - fraid he shall not be,
The__ wick - ed ones shall see, and grieve: their teeth will gnash a - way,



The gen - er - a - tion of the just in bless - ings shall a - bound.
The right - eous man's me - mor - i - al shall ev - er - last - ing prove.
Un - til a - mong his__ en - e - mies, his tri - umph He__ shall see.
For__ what the wick - ed__ most de - sire shall ut - ter - ly__ de - cay.

Text: Psalm 112:1-4, 6-8, 10, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. Henry C. Haffner 2018;
Music: POTTSVILLE, Henry C. Haffner, 2018.

Scripture Reading—Revelation 21:22-27

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Hymn—Light Of The Anxious Heart

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed between the two systems of music.

Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear,
Joy - ous is he with whom, God's Word, Thou dost a - bide,
Bright - ness of God a - bove, un - fath - om - a - ble grace,
To bid the gloom of guilt de - part, and shed Thy sweet-ness here.
Sweet light of our e - ter - nal home, to flesh - ly sense de - nied.
Thy pres - ence be a fount of love with-in Thy cho - sen place.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th century. tr. J. H. Newman, 1836; Music: SELMA, Robert A. Smith, 1825.

Reading of the Word—Luke 2:40-52

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. ⁴¹ Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸ And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. ⁵¹ And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Splendor Of God’s Glory Bright, Vs. 2

O Thou true Son, on us Thy glance let fall in roy - al rad - i - ance;

The Spir - it's sanc - ti - fy - ing beam up - on our eath - ly sen - ses stream.

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The music is in 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4th Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Sermon—A Growing Boy

—Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God’s favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Hebrews 5:9-13

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Although Jesus was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

All: **But we have become dull of hearing.**

Pastor: For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.

All: **We need milk, not solid food, for we are unskilled in the word of righteousness, since we are like children.**

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

MEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 2:14-17; Matthew 11:28

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, [Christ] Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: He says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Amen.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y be un - to Thee,
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8;

Music: Nathan George, 2013.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



The King shall come when morn - ing_dawns, and light tri - um - phant breaks;
Not as of old a___ lit - tle___ child to bear, and fight, and die,
O bright - er than that___ glor - ious morn shall this fair morn - ing be,
And let the end - less___ bliss be - gin, by wear - y saints fore - told,
The King shall come when morn - ing_dawns, and light and beau - ty brings:



When beau - ty___ gilds the east - ern hills, and life to joy___ a - wakes.
But___ crowned with glo - ry like the___ sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
When Christ, our King, in beau - ty___ comes, and we His face shall see.
When right shall tri - umph ov - er___ wrong, and truth shall be___ ex - tolled.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: Ancient Greek hymn, tr. John Brownlie, 1907; Music: MORNING SONG, Elkanah Kelsay Dare, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.

Congregational Hymn—Fairest Lord Jesus



Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, Son of___ God and Son of Man!
Fair are the mead - ows, fair___ are the wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing___ garb of spring:
Fair is the sun - shine, fair___ is the moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry host:
Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions! Son of___ God and Son of Man!



Thee will I cher - ish, Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines brigh - ter, Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be Thine.



Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster 1677, tr. 1850, 1873; Music: CRUSADER'S HYMN (ST. ELIZABETH), Silesian Folk song, Leipzig, 1842.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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.*

Congregational Hymn—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - mighty, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh melody.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Isaiah 60:19-20

The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. *Amen.*

Sung Response—O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright, Vs. 5

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "All praise to God the Fa - ther be, all praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee, Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more." The score concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4th Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Light has been a consistent motif found in Christmas celebrations throughout history. From the legend of St. Lucy's candle headdress which enlivens the winter solstice in Scandinavia, to the "star singer" processions of central Europe where children re-enact the visit of the Magi while singing hymns, these images point to Christ as "the true light" (John 1:9) and "a light for revelation to the gentiles" (Luke 2:32). On this Epiphany Sunday service (the feast which follows the traditional twelve days of Christmas), many of the scriptures and hymns reflect these themes as well. Isaiah 60 announces that our light has come to the nations, while Revelation 21 looks forward to the day when "there will be no night." We describe God as the "Father of Light" (*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*), and the psalmist encourages us that "Light to the upright shall arise, though he in darkness be" (*Alleluia! How Blest The Man—Psalm 112*). We confess that Jesus is the "Light of the anxious heart" and the "Light of light, light's living spring," who shines brighter than "all the twinkling starry host" (*Light Of The Anxious Heart; O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright; Fairest Lord Jesus*). As we begin a new year, with all the anticipation and excitement that attend it, I pray that, as wise men hailed the guiding light of the star to Bethlehem, "so, most gracious Lord, may we ever more be led to Thee." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Child, Grew, Temple, Father's House, Wisdom, Favor

Keystone Verse: And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
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Elder Emeritus

Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.