

O star of wonder,
star of night

Star with royal
beauty bright

Westward leading,
still proceeding

Guide us to
thy perfect light



**Service for the Lord's Day
Epiphany**

January 5, 2020

10:30am

** indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.
Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Music *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Hymn #66

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

People of God, arise, shine, for your light has come!

The light of Christ has come into the world. Immanuel. God with us.

So arise, shine, for your light has come!

**And we will follow the light—when it shines brightly in the night sky
when it glows dimly on the horizon.**

We will follow the light—when it leads down familiar paths to
expected destinations when the road is unfamiliar and the star rests
above a dubious-looking home.

**We will lift up our eyes and look around. And when we see the
Christ child, may our hearts be overwhelmed with joy.**

When we are in the presence of Immanuel,
may our knees bend in worship.

When our journey brings us, finally, to the heart of God,

May our hands open in generous sharing;

May our mouths open in generous praise.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

God of every nation, by the light of a wondrous star you led wandering magi to the humble infant Jesus, revealing to them your salvation for the world. In the miraculous and the mundane, in union with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace, lead us to Christ, that we may offer our worship and serve him with sincerity of heart; for he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

***Hymn #411**

Arise, Your Light is Come!

Call to Confession

Isaiah proclaimed: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you. Let us acknowledge the darkness in our lives, repent of our sin, and receive the light of God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of starlight, shine your love into the darkness of our lives. Preoccupied with ourselves, we forget the needs of others; we participate in systems that oppress; we accept violence as a way of life; we fail to respond to the cry of others. May your love fall upon us like rain on the mown grass. May your love wash away our indifference and water the tender shoots of our care and compassion. Nourished in the sunlight of your love, may we grow into people who live in righteousness and who work for justice for all your children. Amen.

Silent Confession

Sung Response

By His Grace

***By His grace I am redeemed, by His blood I am made clean;
And I now can know Him face to face.***

***By His power I have been raised, hidden now in Christ by faith;
I will praise the glory of His grace.***

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, God has revealed the mystery that brings grace and forgiveness. The light of God's love transforms us so that we may act with boldness and confidence. Rejoice in this good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.

***Sung Response**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Overwhelm us with Your Spirit, O God, that the words we hear will speak to our hearts as Your Word, made known to us in Christ the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Pastor Christina

***Hymn #63**

As with Gladness Men of Old

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Morning Offering

***Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED IN US

Invitation to the Font

Baptismal Questions

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn away from sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as Lord and Savior, trusting in His grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and following His love?

I will, with God's help.

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's 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.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...Through your son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

***Remembering Your Baptism & Receiving Holy Communion**

As you come forward to receive communion, you are invited to dip your fingers into the baptismal font and touch the water to your forehead, remembering your baptism. You may take a stone to remember the covenant made between you and God for the new year.

Prayer After Communion (unison)

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to You. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn (insert)** *I Have Called You By Your Name*

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

I Have Called You by Your Name 4

Unison
♩ = 60

C7 F Bb C7 Fsus4

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
4. I have giv - en you a name, it is mine;

C7 F Bb/F Csus4

I have gift - ed you and ask you now to shine.
read it writ - ten in my peo - ple, help them grow.
feel it puls - ing in cre - a - tion's ebb and flow.
I have giv - en you my Spir - it as a sign.

C7 Am Dm Gm

I will not a - ban - don you, all my prom - is - es are
Pour the wa - ter in my name, speak the word your soul can
Like the wo - man reach - ing out, choos - ing faith in spite of
With my won - der in your soul, make my wound - ed chil - dren

C F Bb C7 F

true. You are gift - ed, called, and chos - en; you are mine.
claim, of - fer Je - sus' bod - y giv - en long a - go.
doubt, hold the hem of Je - sus' robe, then let it go.
whole; go and tell my prec - ious peo - ple they are mine.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1989

KELLY

10.11.7.7.11.

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Today's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you. Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you. Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance. Lift up your eyes and look all around: they are all gathered; they have come to you. Your sons will come from far away, and your daughters on caregivers' hips. Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will tremble and open wide, because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you; the nations' wealth will come to you. Countless camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. They will all come from Sheba, carrying gold and incense, proclaiming the Lord's praises.

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Prayer List:

Loving God, we lift the following in prayer to You. Hold these people and situations in Your hands, and in them, may Your will be done. Amen.

Concerns:

Tina Castillo and her mom, Gail; Ken Yordy; John & Nancy Allen; Marian Bouchey; Sally Nester; Jill Nester; Jackie Hartsaw; Stacy Bosley Mockridge; Sharon Froom; Bonnie Smith; Garret Miniard; The Rev. George Gillette; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Geneva Foster; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Those who make decisions that affect others; Those living with mental illness; Our military and veterans; Our police, fire, and other emergency responders; Our country

Thanksgivings:

Miracles and healing mercies granted; Our church family; The church office volunteers; New jobs and the opportunities that come with them; For birthdays and anniversaries; For those who help others in crisis; For the angels in our church family

Continuing Prayers:

John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Christina Latoski & family; Karen Moore; Barb Pharr; Rick & Mary Rimmel; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith; Shelley Zamarron & family

If you would like someone added to the prayer list and announced during the Prayers of the People, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Christina.

Happening this Week:

- Women's Breakfast – Monday, 9:00am – Hearthstone Oven
- Tabitha Circle – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry

Next Week's Volunteers – January 12, 2020:

- Vickie Thum, Liturgist
- Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeters
- Brad & Vickie Thum, Ushers
- Fellowship Team, Coffee Hour



De-decorating – Next Sunday!

It's beginning to look a lot less like Christmas. Help us de-decorate the church on Sunday, January 12, after a casserole luncheon provided by the Mission & Fellowship Committee. Many hands make light work – and we could use your help! Thanks so much!

Pastor Christina Out of the Office

Pastor Christina will be in California caring for her aunt January 12-18. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as she travels. Pastoral care emergencies may be directed to any member of Session, or the church office.

Installation of Officers and Annual Meeting – January 25

During worship service on January 25, we will ordain and install Jackie Bowen, Rick Vanderbeek, Karen Rozen, Joy Heinlein, and Gary Mellow as the newest Elders on Session. Immediately following worship, we will have our 2020 Annual Meeting. This is the meeting where we adopt the 2020 budget and receive reports from the various teams of the church. Please plan to be there!

Snow Day? The Office is Closed!

This is a friendly reminder that if the Ithaca School District has a snow day due to the amount of precipitation (snow and/or ice) we've had dumped on us, the church office will be closed. If schools are closed because the back roads are a mess, but the roads here in town are fine, then we will probably be open. We hope and pray that everyone will be safe this winter.

We Need YOU...

...to sign up to be a worship leader! You can sign up to be a liturgist/lay leader, or team up with a friend and be greeters or ushers. Leading in the sanctuary not your thing, but you love to feed people? Sign up to host coffee hour! Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hall, just outside of the fireplace room. We - the church family - can't do what we do without your help!

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To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:

www.ithacapres.org

and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ithacapres

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor

Jamie Sanders, Liturgist

Bob Crist, Music Director

Joy Heinlein & Barb Litwiller, Greeters

Joy Heinlein & Cynthia Smith, Ushers

Dale Nester & Tom Heinlein, Counters

Staff:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor

Bob Crist, Music Director

Chris Shemes, Treasurer

Shelley Zamarron, Custodian



The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan, is a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Huron of the Presbyterian Church (USA).