

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



Sunday, January 6, 2019
10:30am

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

January 6, 2019

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 *Jesus, the Light of the World* #100 (red)

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 (blue)** *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.

*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	<i>Do You See a Star?</i> Chancel Choir	Parker/Shackley
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	
Sermon	“The Wise Still Seek Him”	Pastor Christina
*Hymn #62 (blue)	<i>Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love</i>	

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Prayers of the People

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.

Sung Response

Cares Chorus

***I cast all my cares upon you;
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,
and anytime I don’t know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.***

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.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Star Words**

"Star-Giving"

by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star. Brilliance in a package, something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans or in the pocket of your being. Something to take out in times of darkness, something that would never snuff out or tarnish, something you could hold in your hand, something for wonderment, something for pondering, something that would remind you of what Christmas has always meant: God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world. But stars are only God's for giving, and I must be content to give you words and wishes and packages without stars. But I can wish you life as radiant as the Star that announced the Christ Child's coming, and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood beneath its light. And I can pass on to you the love that has been given to me, ignited countless times by others who have knelt in Bethlehem's light. Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

***Hymn #66** (blue) *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

***Benediction**

***Postlude**



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:

Mackenzie Brown; Brinley & Bidy Zamarron; Susie Page; Bonnie Smith; Barb Pharr; Vickie Losey; Jim Kench; Pat MacDonald; Peggy Ronk; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Karen Rozen; Randy Jenison; Hal Williams; Geneva Foster; Sandy Parr's sister Barb Elliot; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Barb Mephram; Barb Coursey and her family; 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:

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:

Geneva Alasadi & family; John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Lou Dellinger; Art Faustmann; Christina Latoski & family; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith, David Thum; 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
- Men's Breakfast – Tuesday, 8:30am – Hearthstone Oven
- Team Meetings – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry

Next Week's Volunteers – January 13, 2018:

- Karen Emery, Liturgist
- Joy Heinlein & Barb Litwiler, Greeters
- Chuck & Karen Emery, Ushers
- Rick Teal & Joy Heinlein, Communion Servers
- Potluck, Coffee Hour
- Rick Teal & Tom Heinlein, Counters



Reaffirmation of Baptism – Next Sunday

We will reaffirm our baptisms next Sunday, as we celebrate and remember the Baptism of the Lord. Come forward, reaffirm your baptism, and receive communion. This is the Sunday with the most tangible reminders of who we are and whose we are – we belong to God!

De-decorating – Next Sunday!

It's beginning to look a lot less like Christmas. Help us de-decorate the church on Sunday, January 13, after potluck lunch. Many hands make light work – and we could use your help! Thanks so much!

Installation of Officers and Annual Meeting – January 20

During worship service on January 20, we will install Brad Thum and Dale Nester as the Session Class of 2021. Immediately following worship, we will have our 2019 Annual Meeting. This is the meeting where we adopt the 2019 budget and receive reports from the various teams of the church.

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.

Blue Presbyterian Hymnals - Do You Want One?

We are thankful for Fort Street Presbyterian Church's gift of the blue Presbyterian Hymnals - and we have an abundance of them! If you would like to take one home, or know someone who would like one at home, please take one (or two)! We have plenty. Thanks!

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!

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca
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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
Joy Heinlein, Lay Leader
Bob Crist, Music Director
Chuck & Karen Emery, Greeters
Chuck & Karen Emery, 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).