

First Presbyterian Church

Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.



Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

January 7, 2024 • Epiphany of the Lord

**Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** *(based on Isaiah 60)*

Arise, shine! Our light has come,

and the glory of God has risen upon us.

We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish God's light.

We gather to remember that God's love will always be more powerful than death.

Now the glory of God has risen.

Arise, shine! Our light has come!

***Hymn 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin. Pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Sung Response** *(from hymn 113, refrain)*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Anthem

What Child Is This

arr. Larson

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Starshine

Sharon Youngs

Musical Reflection

The Eucharist

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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word... Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

(As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to take a star word from the Communion Table. If you prefer to remain seated, you will receive your star word at the conclusion of the service.)

Prayer after Communion

Loving and Gracious God, 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, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

***Hymn 97**

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

(hymn 151, refrain)

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

Postlude

✎ ✎ ✎

*The flowers today are given by Elaine Wilson and Darlene Sanders
to the glory of God and in memory of Elaine's dad, Rev. Skip Wilson.*

✎ ✎ ✎

Announcements

—Thank you to Steve Layendecker for serving as our liturgist this morning, and to our guest accompanist Marianne Barbour for sharing her musical gifts with us.

—Our last hymn today is a conversation between a “Watchman” and a “Traveler.” As we sing, we will embody this dialogue by singing antiphonally. The side of the congregation that is right of the center aisle will begin, singing the lines that begin with “Watchman.” The other side of the congregation that is left of the center aisle will answer, singing the lines that begin with “Traveler.” Keep an eye on Anna Thomas for cues.

—The 2024 flower calendar is now available. Cost is \$35, made payable to First Presbyterian Church. You can add your name to the calendar on the fellowship hall door or call the church office (483-1318) to reserve a Sunday.

—You are invited to host our fellowship time after worship. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just inside the fellowship hall entrance from the narthex.

—This Thursday, Jan. 11, is our Welcome Table dinner, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall. All are invited!

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 28: Annual meeting of the congregation

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

P.O. Box 6106 ❖ Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ❖ (865) 483-1318

❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

❖ On Instagram [@firstpresbyterianchurchor](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchor) ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Madison Green, Office Manager

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPCOR.

You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPCOR (P.O. Box above)

or give online using the QR code to the right or via the link on fpcor.org.

