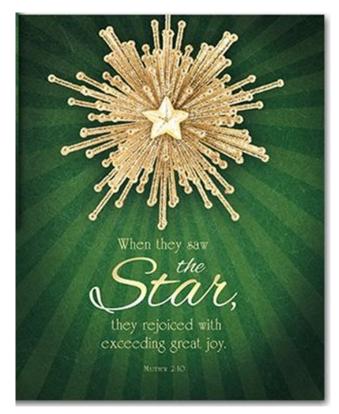


Shine God's Light

As disciples of Christ, we share and rejoice in the warmth of God's love and light by teaching the holy word, serving Christ's community, and growing together in faith.



January 7, 2024 Epiphany Sunday

The Service for the Lord's Day

Epiphany Sunday — The Sacrament of Communion

January 7, 2024 9:30 am

Prelude How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Dietrich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

One: Sing praise to God, who gathers us here; All: from the ends of the earth, we come.
One: With a word of promise, a spring of water,

All: a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,
One: God turns our mourning into dancing,

All: and our sorrow into joy. Let us worship God!

*Hymn God Creates a Blessed Newness (tune: Ode to Joy)

(please see insert for lyrics)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Holy God, you have given us everything; we have failed to respond with gratitude. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word; we answer with empty promises and lies. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light; we try to hide ourselves from your glory. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life; even this precious gift we have not received. Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us. In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be: beloved children, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The waters of baptism are God's promise, the sign and seal of your redemption: You have been called by God, claimed in Christ, and set free through the Spirit. Believe this good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: 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.

*Passing the Peace (Please check first with those you approach)

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message

Children's offering will be collected as they come forward for the message. After the message, children and youth may depart for Sunday School or return to their pew. Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6 (page 602)

Anthem There Shall a Star Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth and a scepter from Israel rise up and dash in pieces, princes and nations. As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation! Thy word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation. Thine be praise and adoration!

Gospel Reading Matthew 2: 1-12 (page 783)

Sermon Radiant Joy Rev. Amy Lincoln

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

[from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith]

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Offering

We invite you to consider giving out of gratitude to God after worship today either by placing your offering in the wooden box hanging on the wall at each exit, scanning the QR code in your pew and/or giving online through the church website at www.flemingtonpres.org, or mailing a check to the church office at 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. We give thanks for your generosity, allowing our mission and ministry together to continue.

Prayer of Dedication

*Doxology No. 145

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come one and all to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup [Please take a star word as the basket is passed.]

It is our common practice to hold onto the elements until all have received them and then to partake of them together at the direction of the pastor.

Prayer after Communion

God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us and called us beloved. Today we have been nourished by the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation – and we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas – inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you will speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that may help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with stories full of praise for the ways you have been present with us. Together we pray with joy in our hearts. Amen.

*Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are (sing refrain only after stanzas 1 and 5)

*Charge and Benediction

Response Love Is the Song Alfred H. Johnson Love is the song the angels sing. Love is the theme that makes bells ring. Love tells the joy of simple things. Love gives the light that Christmas brings. Love brings the star that glows so bright. Love sends us forth to shine God's light.

Postlude The First Noel Diane Bish

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Rev. Amy E. S. Lincoln, Pastor Cindy Hall, Office Manager Jennifer Miller, Youth Coordinator J. Jay Smith, Director of Music/Organist Margaret Sheneman, Director of Handbells Marion Barry, Sexton

No. 151

Hubert King, audio/video engineer