



## **First Presbyterian Church**

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

**Church: (716) 692-1319**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God  
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

**January 7, 2024**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Matthew 2:1-12**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, "where will we find the Child of Christmas?"

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, "where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

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: "We Three Kings" #151**

**KINGS OF ORIENT**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.**

*Silence is kept*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

**This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI: "Glory to God"

SERVICE MUSIC

### Glory to God *Gloria, gloria*

583

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)  
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

\*May be sung as a canon.

TEXTE: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Jacques Barthele, 1979  
Music © 1979, 1987 Les Presses de Talzié (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Talzié)

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. By the compelling radiance of your Spirit, draw us near, reveal your truth, and teach us faithful obedience to your holy Word. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

#### First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
**and your righteousness to a king's son.**

<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
**and your poor with justice.**

<sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
**and the hills, in righteousness.**

<sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
**give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live while the sun endures,  
**and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
**like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,  
**until the moon is no more.**

<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,  
**may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him,  
**all nations give him service.**

<sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when they call,  
**the poor and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
**and saves the lives of the needy.**

<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
**and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

<sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**SERMON:**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "The First Nowell" #147**

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION: Let Your Light Shine!

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The magi brought gifts to Christ at his nativity and offered their lives in worship. With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

### THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry, healing to the broken, community to the lonely, and hope to those who live in the shadows of our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE (Please be seated.)

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

#### And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.**

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God... who forever sing of your grace:

### Picardy Sanctus

#### SANCTUS

PIC

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of  
pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,  
all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who  
comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

Holy are you, God of redemption... that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

### Picardy Memorial Acclamation

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,  
Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one flat) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for "Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen," with a fermata over the word "ri". The second staff contains the melody for "Christ the Lord will come a - - gain," with a fermata over the word "a".

Holy One of stars and sinners...we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community,  
Holy in One. Amen.

### Picardy Amen

#### GREAT AMEN

PICARDY

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

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one flat) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for "A - - - - men, a - - - - men," with a fermata over the word "a". The second staff contains the melody for "A - - - - - - - - - - men, a - - - - - - - - - - men," with a fermata over the word "a".

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

**\*HYMN: "Light Dawns on a Weary World" #79**

**TEMPLE OF PEACE**

#### CHARGE

Now, God sends us out by a different road.

**So we may find those who have been left by the side of the world.**

Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

**So we may serve those who are lonely and frightened.**

Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

**So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand to walk in wonder and grace.**

**BENEDICTION: "May the God of Hope Go With Us" #765**

**ARGENTINA**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Nancy Rolando  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer & Linda Barry  
 Greeter(s): Tom & Leslie Dugan  
 Coffee Hour: Bonnie Zimmer  
 Communion: Pat Loeswick, Nancy Rolando,  
 Linda Barry

**Volunteers Next Week 1/14 :**

Liturgist: Janet Haacker  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Randy Marohn  
 Greeter(s): Lynn Marohn  
 Coffee Hour: Gail Borycki

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, Jan 7

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)  
 10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Jan 8

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, Jan 9

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
 11:00am Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor  
 7:00pm Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor

Wednesday, Jan 10

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Jan 11

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
 6:00pm Hearts4Worship  
 6:45pm Bell Choir  
 7:15pm Choir

Saturday, Jan 13

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Jan 14

9:30am

10:30 am

11:30am

Faith Formation (All Ages)

Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

