

**Epiphany
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

WELCOME

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we are honored that you have chosen to worship today at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel welcome here and inspired. May you be strengthened by the power of God to meet the challenges of your daily life.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.

PRELUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* arr. Jan Bender

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come. The glory of God has risen among us.

All: We are awake; we are alive! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

One: Lift up your eyes and see God's promises revealed through Jesus the Christ.

All: Our hearts rejoice with joy and praise. God's light shines upon us all. Let us worship God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of light, we give thanks for your love and grace. We acknowledge that you have blessed us and called us to be your beacon of light in the world. Yet we confess that we have narrowed our vision, focusing upon our own goals, forgetting to follow your path of justice and ways of wisdom. We cling to ideologies and false doctrine, rather than living your ways of truth. Shine your healing light upon us this day as we silently confess our sins to you.

*KYRIE 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 4* ST. LOUIS

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*GLORIA 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, v. 3* IN DULCI JUBILIO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Adam Lay Ibounden

Ord

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Home by Another Way

Rev. Catherine Oliver

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN 147**

The First Nowell (v. 1-5)

The First Nowell

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence.

Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row.

OFFERTORY

Noel en Duo

N. Gigault

***RESPONSE 145**

What Child Is This, v.3

GREENSLEEVES

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise....

One: We join our voices with the faithful of every time and place who forever give glory to your name:

All: 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....

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

We are serving communion by intinction today. There are two stations at the front of the sanctuary. Please come to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and eat. Udi's gluten free, dairy free bread is in a small dish on each plate.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***BLESSING AND SENDING FOR REV. CATHERINE AND MIKE OLIVER**

***HYMN 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Come, Thou Almighty King

arr F. Giardini

*Please stand as you are able.

**If you would like to make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME GUESTS and celebrate that you are worshiping with us today. Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you the Lord's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org. May God's peace and blessing be with you.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. While all children are welcome in worship, the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 will go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

OPPORTUNITY INSERT Please use the Opportunity Insert to relay information to the church office, including reservations for church events. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office, fold the insert and put it in the offering plate.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The FLOWERS are given by the Rev. Mary Porter to the glory of God in memory of long-time FPC member Dolly Murfee Porter (who died on Epiphany 2004) and in honor of the Rev. Catherine Oliver. They would have loved each other!

The LITURGIST for today is Scott Pierce.

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprcdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@faal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE OLIVER, Interim Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillanist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Facility Manager

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Have you remembered the church in your will?