

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

January 2, 2022

Whether we worship in person or online,
may the Spirit of God unite us
in praise and prayer,
worship and witness to the saving love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*,
STF denotes *Sing the Faith Hymnal*)



WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

People: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN PH #66 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (Refrain)*

*Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, Worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)*

*Myrrh is mine; it's bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world,
who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In Christ, God has broken down the dividing walls between us and has bridged whatever distance separates us from God and one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** (Please take a moment to greet one another from a distance.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word, reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ, and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Leader: ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

People: ²**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

Leader: ³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills,
in righteousness.

People: ⁴**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: ⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon,
throughout all generations.

People: ⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: ⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,
until the moon is no more.

People: ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

Leader: ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

People: ¹²**For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

Leader: ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

All: ¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their
blood in his sight.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SERMON

"Home by Another Way."

* HYMN PH #62

"Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love"

***Bring we the frankincense of our love to the feet of the holy Child,
Ever remembering God's great gift of a love that is undefiled.***

***Refrain: Holy the Infant and holy the mother
And holy and precious the gifts that we bring;
Praise to the Father and praise to the Spirit
And praise to Christ Jesus our King.***

***Bring we the myrrh of humility to the throne of the Son of God,
Ever recalling the purity of His life when the earth He trod. (Refrain)***

***Ever secure in His changelessness, though the kingdoms of earth may fall,
Bring we the gold of our faithfulness to the King who is Lord of all. (Refrain)***

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

* SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”*

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* HYMN PH #507

“I Come with Joy”

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ’s communion bread, in Christ’s communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.*

*Together met, together bound, we’ll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world,
We’ll live and speak His praise, we’ll live and speak His praise.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right and our joy, Creator God, to give you thanks and praise. (our prayer continues...)

Send us, in your marvelous light, into the world, ready to serve others and work for peace. We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray and to say:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the bread of Heaven.

People: **We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: **We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

(You will be served in your pew. The bread is gluten free. The cup is grape juice.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN PH #68

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

***What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.***

***'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.***

***O Jesus, while the star of grace
Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of Your light to use.***

***To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in one,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise!***

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

~~~~~  
**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
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E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*



E-Giving is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. You may be able to get to the secure website simply by taking a picture of the QR code with your smartphone. Or you may need to download a secure QR code scanner App.

OR

Go to the church website, fpcnewtonnj.org and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

More comfortable using a check? No problem, just mail a check to the church office.

As Always, we thank you for your generosity and support!

Continued next page...

Our Staff

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Treasurer, Jane MacDonald
treas@fpcnewtonnj.org

Organist: Ann Socha;
Bell Choir Director: Melinda Kline; Child Care: Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org
Church Telephone # 973-383-4420
54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ
www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

(See Next Page for Congregational Life Schedule)



**Congregational Life at
First Presbyterian Church
January 2, 2022**

Sun. 1/2 **10:30 am Worship In Person - Epiphany Celebration**

Our service will also be on our YouTube channel sometime after 12 noon.

Go to: www.YouTube.com and search for: "fpcnewtonnj".

It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

Communion Sunday! We are celebrating communion. If you are unable to be here for in-person worship, plan on having some bread and some "fruit of the vine" on hand when you see the service on YouTube. This could be grape juice, wine (if you prefer), or another juice that comes from a vine. If you plan to be here and would be willing to help by serving communion, please let the office know by Thursday.

11:30 am Fellowship Time

Mon. 1/3 **10:00 am Wired Word**

Here is the Log in information for Wired Word: Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89333400136?pwd=TThiNCt2RFpBdWdnT1JueFovQzZlNz09> Meeting ID: 893 3340 0136 Passcode: 148070

Wed. 1/5 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**

Here is the Zoom Meeting Link: Here is the Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88438963402?pwd=ZlIIMTFJyYjlpVpTeGFzUjlkNDNHZz09> Meeting ID: 884 3896 3402 Passcode: 317405

Thur. 1/6 **7:00 pm Bells**

Fri. 1/7 **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group**

Sun. 1/9 **10:30 am Worship In Person**

Our service will also be on our YouTube channel sometime after 12 noon.

Go to: www.YouTube.com and search for: "fpcnewtonnj".

It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

Bucket Brigade Second Sunday loose change collection to help fight hunger in our community.

11:30 am Fellowship Time

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Empty Bowls for Adults

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Girls Scouts

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Youth Group