



# First Presbyterian Church of Newton

## Epiphany

10:00 AM JANUARY 3, 2021

*As we worship together while physically apart,  
may we celebrate the unity and the connections  
that are ours through the gift of God's Holy Spirit!*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**People: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**People: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,  
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord,

**People: for God has done wondrous things!**

**HYMN PH #67      *"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"***

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or wilfulness often choose darkness instead of light. Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal. Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us." (Our silent prayers continue...)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: My friends, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us. Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. In his name I declare to us: Our sins are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving, and live without shame or anxiety.

**People: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us. Amen!**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 72,1-7, 10-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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."

<sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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.**

### **THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT**

**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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One, confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the church, the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards the promised goal; on the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacrament, and we have the gift of the Spirit and the light of God's love in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the church is called to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Together with all the people of God, we will serve the world for which Christ died, and we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

## SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

#### 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 DEDICATION AND 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.*

*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 offer thanks and praise.**

(our prayers continue...)

The angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:

**Holy Lord, God of endless love,  
heaven and earth are surely full of your glory.  
The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it.  
Blessed is he who was born that we might have life.  
Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.**

(our prayers continue...)

This we pray in the name of Jesus, 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.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving God we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE PH# 68 vs 4**

***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.***

~~~~~  
**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
~~~~~

Contributors to today's liturgy include Bruce Prewer, Elsa Peters,  
the Uniting Church of Australia and Moira Laidlaw

**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. **OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://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, we are checking the mail on a regular basis during the office closure.

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

**Weekly Envelopes now available!** For those of you who use weekly envelopes, the boxes are now available in the church office. Stop in on Mondays 9-3, or call the church office to see if it is open. Included on the box is a note about Per Capita, which is a message for each of us – it is the payment we make to the regional and national levels of the church in order that ministry and mission happens in places that are not Newton. This year the assessment is \$40.00. If you want to have envelopes, and no box has been made up for you, just call the church office, and one will be prepared.

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### **Our Staff**

Pastor, David Young

[pastordavidyoung@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:pastordavidyoung@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Assoc. Family Nurture, Colleen Duffy

[colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Office Administrator, Janet Lasko

[admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Treasurer, Jane MacDonald

[treas@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:treas@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Organist: Ann Socha;

Bell Choir Director: Melinda Kline; Child Care: Heather Woods

Church Office Temporarily Closed

Emails and Phone Messages Checked on a Regular Basis During Closure.

Church Email Address: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org)    [facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://facebook.com/FPCNJ)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

***(See Next Page for Congregational Life Schedule)***



## Virtual Congregational Life at First Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

***Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel! Invite your friends to do so as well. It doesn't lock you into anything! But, a subscription makes it easier to use our YouTube channel.*** Here is the web address: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifje87megV4T0c-tJ0hSjA>

**New to Zoom?** There is a brief Zoom tutorial video called “Using Zoom” on our church YouTube channel. Click on web address above, (subscribe!) then, click on “Using Zoom” to view the video. Chromebooks and other "Tablets" may require you to download a Zoom app that is specific to them. Others should not have to add this step in the process.

Sun. 1/3     **9:00 am-9:30 am Children's Ministry Zoom gathering**

for children preschool to grade 5. The Zoom link is  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82205534608>.

**10:00 am Worship Livestreamed. Also available on YouTube  
any time after 10:00 am**

Our service will be on our YouTube channel. Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)  
and search for: “fpcnewtonnj”.

If we have your email address you will also receive a link to the service.  
It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

**We are celebrating communion!** If you wish to participate, plan on  
having some bread and some “fruit of the vine” on hand. This could be  
grape juice, wine (if you prefer), or another juice that comes from a vine.

**11:30 am Congregational Check In Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810439616?pwd=b3VNL0RGN0h2QWVBLzVrTkQ4Ynd3Zz09> Meeting ID: 868 1043 9616 Passcode: 745160

**6:30 pm Sunday Evening Adult Study Zoom Meeting**

Log in information: Topic - Sunday Evening Adult Study

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86042904750?pwd=N2VzdGtKOEZBV1NjUXJFbGR0SUFkQT09> Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881

Or: If you have trouble getting online you may also dial into the meeting:

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881

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Mon. 1/4

**10:00 am Wired Word via Zoom only**

Here is the Log in information for Wired Word:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88085103384?pwd=dThQblpyM2VqdnNZVTdkRjdreUFlodz09> Meeting ID: 880 8510 3384 Passcode: 842293

Or: If you have trouble getting online you may also dial into the meeting:

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 880 8510 3384 Passcode: 842293

Sun. 1/10

**9:00 am-9:30 am Children's Ministry Zoom gathering**

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**10:00 am Worship Livestreamed. Also available on YouTube**

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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810439616?pwd=b3VNLRGN0h2QWVBLzVrTkQ4Ynd3Zz09> Meeting ID: 868 1043 9616 Passcode: 745160

**6:30 pm Sunday Evening Adult Study Zoom Meeting**

Log in information: Topic - Sunday Evening Adult Study

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86042904750?pwd=N2VzdGtkeEZBV1NjUXJFbGR0SUFkQT09> Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881

Or: If you have trouble getting online you may also dial into the meeting:

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881