



Quote for Meditation:

“For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer him gold as king, frankincense as God, myrrh as man.”

—St. John Chrysostom

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM January 5, 2025

Epiphany of our Lord

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

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME AND THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is born in Bethlehem,
the light of the nations from the dark of night.

People: **We wonder, we wander, we walk the way to Christ.**

Leader: Across every nation, every tongue,
every division and every difference,
Christ is our lodestar and light.

People: **We wonder, we wander, we walk the way to Christ.**

Leader: The journey is long, but we never walk it alone.
Let us worship God!

* PARADE OF KINGS PH #66 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

As indicated in the hymnal, the congregation will sing verses 1 and 5, and the Family Choir will sing verses 2, 3, and 4. All will sing the refrain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Emmanuel, God with us, we yearn for your light. In the midst of great confusion, uncertainty, and fear, we long for guidance. We grow impatient with the world around us, wondering how long it will take to find you. And yet, when you bring stars to guide us, we fail to recognize them as such. We ignore the path you set before us, and we fail to walk the way to you. We look to kings and political power in searching for the infant Christ. We look to palaces in searching for your humble home. Forgive us. Renew us. Guide us, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(A Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Believe in the good news of the Gospel:
The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
and darkness will never overtake it.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

* SONG OF JOY PH #411 *“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”* *verse 4*

*Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God’s power will make us strong.*

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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| <h2>LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD</h2> |
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God from God, Light from Light, in the proclamation of your Gospel, reveal your movement in all of creation. Show us the contours of grace which span every age. Enjoin us to constellations of hope, making your every Word a star to guide us.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Luke 1:46-55

Leader: And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

People: Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
holy is his name;

Leader: indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

People: He has shown strength with his arm;
God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

People: he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

Leader: He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

"All the Wrong People"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Nicene Creed)**

**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.**

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| RESPONDING TO THE WORD WITH OUR LIVES |
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*** HYMN PH #53**

"What Child Is This?"

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

*** SONG OF GRATITUDE 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

We join our gifts with the magi, O Christ, giving our offerings to you as a sign of our praise. May what we give—however great, however small—guide us and others to you, drawing us back to thanksgiving, back to love, and back to a world that is turning toward justice. Amen.

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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.

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| CELEBRATING COMMUNION |
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* HYMN PH #507

"I Come with Joy"

verses 1-3

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

God of every good gift, we give thanks for your presence on the journey of faith. You have drawn us together from distant places, guiding and shepherding us to this place. You have fed us at your table, extending abundant hospitality along our walk. You have spoken through your Spirit, illuminating and revealing the path before us. Send us back to the world by a different way, strengthening us to follow your guiding light no matter where it leads, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST |
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* HYMN PH #63

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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We thank our Worship Leader Tom McNulty,  
our Communion Servers,  
and our Usher/Greeters this morning  
Alice Sharick and Shirley Smith.

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E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*

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



Scan Me

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. **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 drop a check in the mail.

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

Our Staff

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Child Care Provider Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
The week of January 5, 2025

- Sun. 1/5 **9:00 am Adult Study followed by Prayer Time** (Adult Study Room)
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes
9:00 am Worship Service (Chapel)
9:30 am Family Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
Child care for infants and toddlers is available on the second floor
Coffee Hour following worship (Parlor)
- Mon. 1/6 **10:00 am Wired Word** (via Zoom)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Manna House Board Meeting (parlor)
7:00 pm Finance and Facility
- Wed. 1/8 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers** (via Zoom)
- Thur. 1/9 **10:00 am FPCN serves at Manna House**
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 1/10 **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group** (Adult Study)
- Sun. 1/12 **9:00 am Adult Study followed by Prayer Time** (Adult Study Room)
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes
9:00 am Worship Service (Chapel)
9:45 am Family Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
Child care for infants and toddlers is available on the second floor
Bucket Brigade:(monthly loose change collection to support local mission)
Coffee Hour following worship (Parlor)
12:45 pm - 2:45 pm Girl Scouts
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group