



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the insert in the bulletin

2nd Christmas and Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2022

10:30am

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow #135

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, www.stephenmfearing.com

We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

We will not fear, for God is with us!

The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

**Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us
are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.**

Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

ever flowing, ever redeeming,

ever claiming us as God's children.

Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

GATHERING PRAYER

HYMN: *What Star is This, with Beams so Bright #152*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *—Nathan Williams, www.liturgylink.net*

God of justice, in baptism you anointed us to live boldly in the reality of your coming kingdom. We confess that we have not fulfilled our calling. We have not used your power to serve our neighbors. We have walked away from oppression and injustice. We have turned our backs on your beloved children who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty. Forgive us, Lord. Make us courageous servants of your justice, peace, and wholeness, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloveds of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting—it cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven. Let us live as a people set free.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.

Mark 1:1-11

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON:

The Rev. Leslie Latham

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of heaven and earth, you call us to come in humility before you, bringing the offering of our very selves. As you revealed Jesus to be your Son in his baptism at the hand of John, so you claimed our lives in baptism, that we might die to sin and be raised with him to new life. By your Spirit, confirm in our hearts the witness that Christ is Savior of the world and our Lord. Accept all we have and are, O God, in the service of Jesus Christ, and strengthen us with your Spirit's power, now and forever. Amen.

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION #399 *God Welcomes All*

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: #151 *We Three Kings*

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

Hymns

What Star is This, with Beams so Bright #152

- 1 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.
- 2 '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.
- 3 While outward sign the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.
- 4 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.

We Three Kings #151

- 1 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 light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. [Refrain]
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]
- 5 Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]