



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of Christmas

CCLI License # 2839486

January 5, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather wondering,

“Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, “where will we find the Child of Christmas?”

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, “where will we find the Christ
who has come for us?”

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ’s nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” #744**

FESTAL SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.

Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6, NRSV, Nations Come to the Light

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Sharing God's Light

Responsive Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14 All shall bow down

¹Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to a king's son.

²May he judge your people with righteousness

and your poor with justice.

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,

and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

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

⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,

like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,

until the moon is no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute;

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹May all kings fall down before him,

all nations give him service.

¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,

the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy

and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life,

and precious is their blood in his sight.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18, NRSV

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON: "Light of the World"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" #314

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God intends to unite all creation, so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore with gratitude and joy, let us render tributes and bring gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "What Child is This (vs 3)" #145

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry, healing to the broken, community to the lonely, and hope to those who live in the shadows of our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

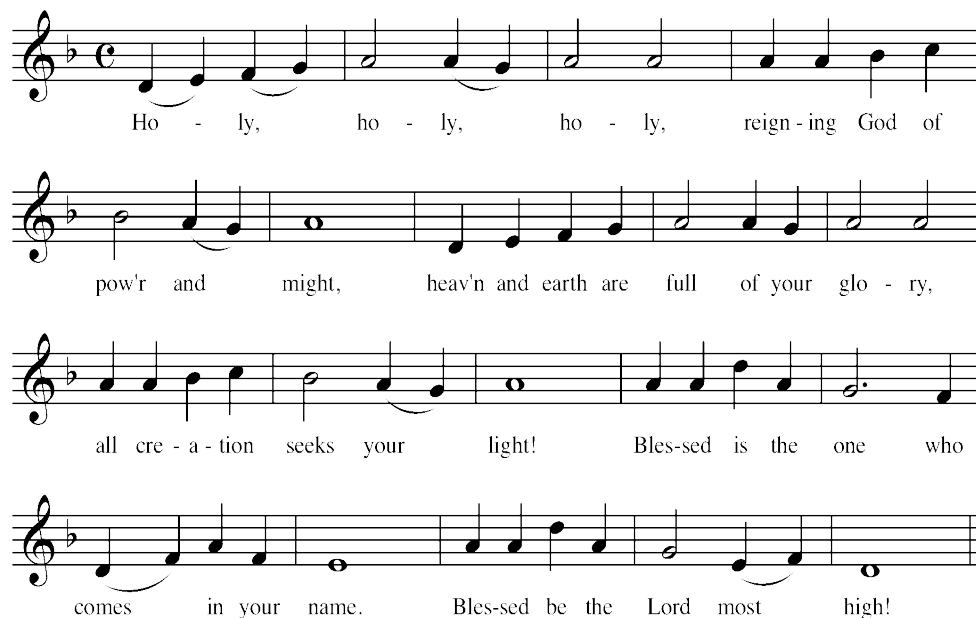
We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos. You whispered, and your glory filled the skies. You sang, and..... who forever sing of your grace:

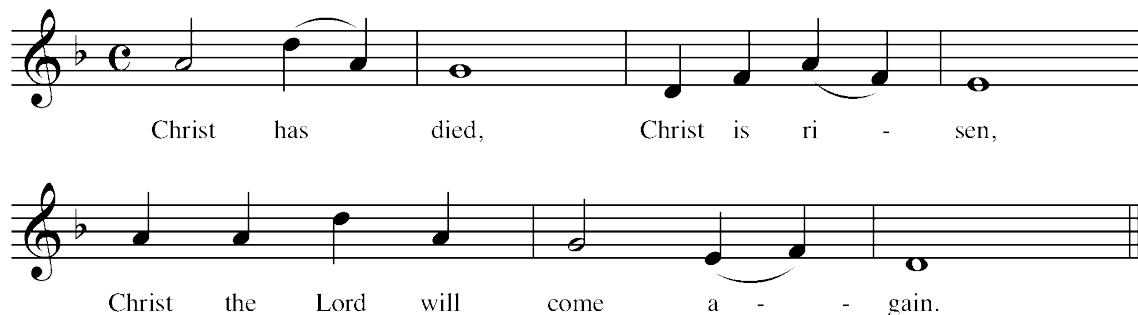
Picardy Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of
pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who
comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

Holy are you, God of redemption,..... which is revealed to us through Christ:

Picardy Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,
Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

Holy One of stars and sinners,.... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Nancy Rolando
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer
 Greeter(s): Diane & Bob Eshelman
 Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias
 Communion: Nancy Rolando, Pat Loeswick

Volunteers Next Week 1/12/25

Liturgist: Tom Dugan
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Leslie Dugan
 Greeter(s): Pat Loeswick
 Coffee Hour:

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan 5

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Jan 6

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 6:00pm Church Stretch

Tuesday, Jan 7

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Jan 8

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 11:00am or 7:30pm The Pastor's Study: *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work, or Watch, or Weep*

Thursday, Jan 9

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Friday, Jan 10

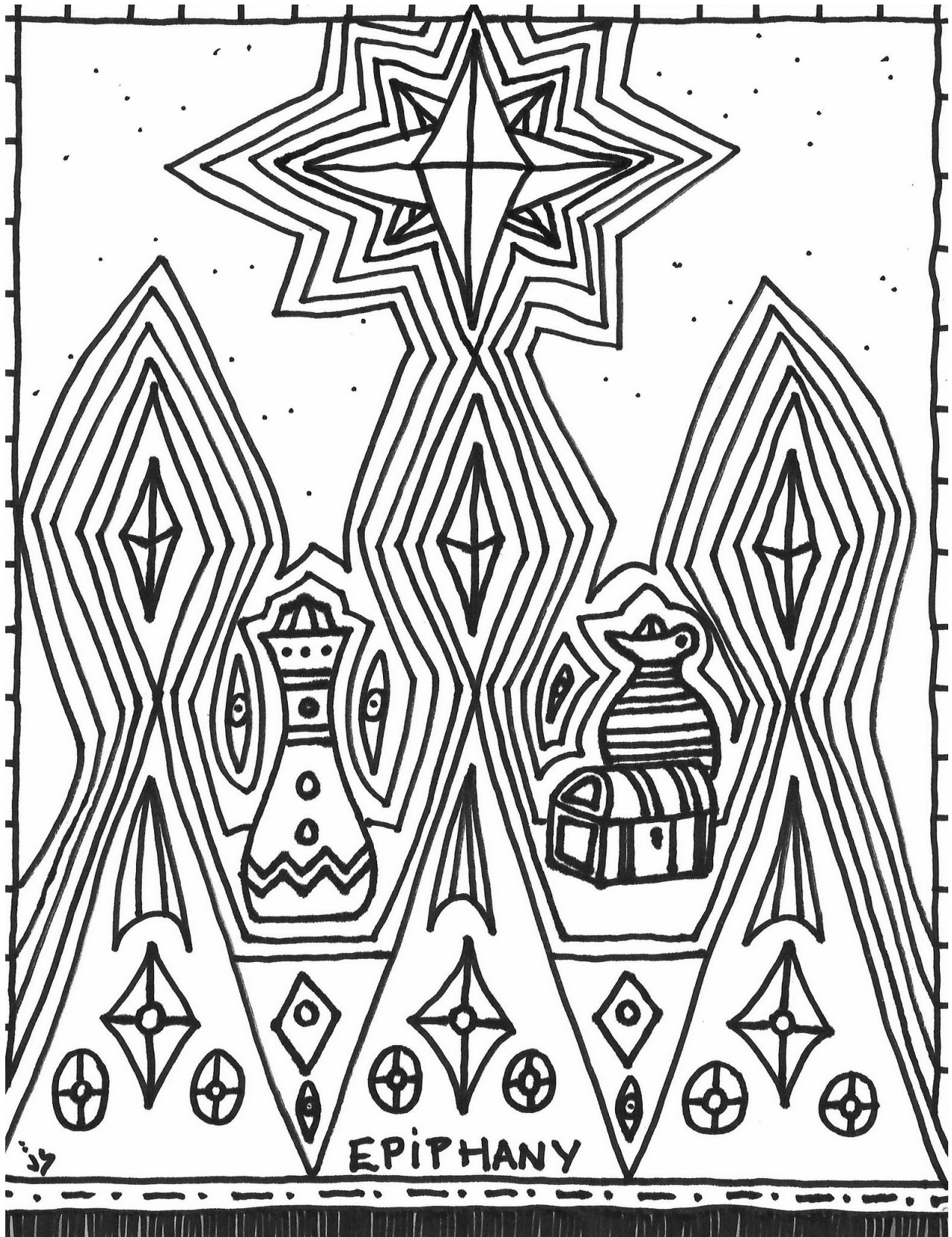
6:00pm Friday Friendzee

Saturday, Jan 11

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Jan 12

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.