

2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany

January 3rd, 2021

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

The Old Year Now Has Passed

J.S. Bach

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

HYMN

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS

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

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys

And urges them, with tender might, to seek the Giver of its light

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

God, we love to worship you when the stars are bright above us. We love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right. We love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one. Unfortunately, as you know, the journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy. Now and again the stars disappear. Our feet get blisters and the journey is long, lonely, and dark. On these days forgive us for giving up so quickly. Forgive us for allowing your dreams to die and for taking the shortcut home. We want to be brave, as the Magi were. We want to persevere. Guide our feet; show us the stars. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

One: God’s light is present in the world.

All: God’s light is present in Christ, born to lead us out of darkness.

One: God’s light is present in the world.

All: God’s light is present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

One: God’s light is present in the world.

All: God’s light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.

One: God’s grace is present in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During this time, we invite you to pass the peace by texting a fellow church member, family member, friend, relative, or loved one, “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home.

After wind, after rain when the dark is done
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling from far away
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call
With the love in your heart as the only song
There is no such beauty as where you belong
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Vision Statement of 2nd Presbyterian Church

Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace, we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community, following Jesus and serving him in the world.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Preparation ***Prelude on How Beautifully Shines the Morning Star*** *Buxtehude*

Great Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **They are lifted up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

HYMN OF SENDING

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat**

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Gigue on How Beautifully Shines the Morning Star* *Buxtehude*

*Adapted from a liturgy/prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

Jan Barber – Liturgist

Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

David Stultz – Asst. Director of Music/Organist

2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Technicians: Dale Henley (video), Paul Sexauer (audio)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Emily Rose, the Landis family, the Goslee family, Mary and Frances Johnson, Beth and Daniel Robertson, Kay Weaver, Harriet Campbell, Frieda Sims, Imogene Posey, Betty McCollum, Aggie Bell, Dotty Barbour, Donna Downen, Douglas Hamilton, and Jennifer Levy-Tatum.

*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request.
Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS: We are currently following the Revised Common Lectionary. Our Advent theme is *Those Who Dream...* Upcoming sermon texts/topics are:

Jan 3	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> persevere
Jan 10	Acts 1:1-14	Waiting & Praying
Jan 17	Acts 1:15-26	Restoring the Twelve
Jan 24	Acts 2:1-13	Day of Pentecost

THE JANUARY SECOND EDITION is now available! To read, you may access it on our website, 2ndpres.org, (click the Publications tab on the Home Page) or via a button at the bottom of the weekly E-News. Copies are also available in the vestibule.

FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A PASTORAL CARE PAGE is on our website under the 'About Us' tab. For the password to access, please contact the church office.

MEALS FOR THE HOMEBOUND: If you are interested in joining a cooking team to prepare meals for some of our homebound members, please contact Leslie Matthews at flowlilly@gmail.com or 865.765.0549.

DISCIPLESHIP

NEW YEAR BIBLE STUDY: Beginning in mid-January, Pastor Tim will post a new lesson on our website and YouTube channel each week. We invite you to study the lesson at your leisure. Then on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12) we will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom to discuss the lessons from the previous month. This will be a time to bring your questions, comments, and insights and share them with the group. The first topic for the year will be *The Great Ends of the Church*. See the upcoming January 2nd Edition or the Friday e-news for more information.

FAITH, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets at 9:30 a.m. by conference call.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

FISH FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Second has participated in the Fish Food Pantry for decades. To continue to effectively carry out this long-time mission of the church, we are very much in need of more participants. We will evaluate whether to re-start our participation in January, please consider joining the effort. Contact Dick Dodson, rdodson52@gmail.com or 865-414-7413 to volunteer.

STEWARDSHIP

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CURRENTLY CLOSED by order of the Session. The church staff is currently working from home. The vestibule is open Monday through Thursday so that drop offs and deliveries can take place, however, the building is still closed. There should be no reason for anyone to come into the church building. Thank you for your consideration and help to keep everyone safe!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING usually takes place on the the first Sunday of February. The Session will discuss how and when the meeting will take place this year at its Stated Meeting for January. Once a decision has been made as to the time, date, and manner of the Annual Meeting, it will be communicated via email, newsletter, worship announcement, social media, and the Friday e-news.