



A Service for the Worship of God | Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 10:45am  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas | Epiphany Sunday*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God.

### CHIMES

**PRELUDE**..... *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*..... Paul Manz

**INTROIT, No. 108**..... *Of the Father's Love Begotten*..... DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
The Sanctuary Choir arr. John Erickson

Accompanied by The Jordan Street Ringers and Youth Bell Choir

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected.  
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!*

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES – The Oliver Family

In Advent, we waited for the light. At Christmas, we rejoiced that the Light had come.

In these days of Epiphany, we celebrate that the Light is revealed—not for a few, but for all.

Guided by a star, the Magi traveled from distant lands, drawn by a promise they did not yet fully understand. They came bearing gifts, and they left changed, having seen the glory of God known in Jesus Christ.

**CANDLE RESPONSE**.....*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.....Randy Edwards

*(After the choir sings this once, the congregation will join the second time)*

***Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! These are gifts you bring from above,  
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be the light of Christ reflected in me.***

Today we light the Christ candle again to proclaim that the Light of Christ shines beyond borders,  
crosses every boundary, and calls all people into God's saving love.

**Let us bear the light of Christ.**

† **HYMN, No. 143**.....*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*.....REGENT SQUARE

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people.  
We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor;  
we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and  
pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence.)*

**RESPONSE, No. 121**.....*O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....ST. LOUIS

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.  
Friends, believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous! Thanks be to God!**

† **ACT OF PRAISE, No. 583**.....*Glory to God*.....GLORIA (Taizé)

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!***

### † **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lynace Veit

*Childcare is available in Room CE 103 for children 4 years old and younger.  
There is no Worship Center this morning.*

RESPONSE, No. 146.....Gentle Mary Laid Her Child.....TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 649 | Large Print, page 844  
*Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews*

#### SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, page 1 | Large Print, page 2  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....Rev. Brent Anderson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen. 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.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

† HYMN, No. 151.....*We Three Kings*.....KINGS OF ORIENT

## **MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

## **PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING**

OFFERTORY.....*Gesù Bambino*.....Pietro Yon  
Jeremy Do, tenor

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell,  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

DOXOLOGY, No. 608.....PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **INVITATION AND STAR WORD INSTRUCTIONS**

As you come forward to receive the Lord's Supper, you are invited to select a star word—a word offered for prayerful reflection during the coming year. Take this word with you, hold it gently in prayer, and listen for how God may use it to guide, challenge, or encourage you in the days ahead.

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*...we lift our voices in praise, joining the song of heaven and earth:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Great is the mystery of faith:*



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

*...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.*



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## 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

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

† HYMN, No. 150.....*As with Gladness Men of Old*.....DIX

### † CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE, No. 113.....*Angels We Have Heard on High*.....GLORIA

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

† POSTLUDE.....*Fughette on 'How Brightly Shines the Morning Star'*.....Johann Christoph Bach

† *Please stand in body or in spirit*

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Liturgist: Brandy B. Williams

Ushers: Carole Mullen, Danny Mullen, David Richardson, Brandy Williams, Michael Williams

### PRAYER LIST - FOR HEALING, PEACE, AND COMFORT:

Martha Fitch, Joy Young, Zama Dexter, Jean and Jerry Sayres, Jean Mendenhall,  
Leigh Taylor, Erika Asseff, Stephen Roberts, Josh Kilpatrick, Susie Nunnally,  
Ken Copeland, Lorna Rodman, Michael Avery, Vernon Chance, Claudia Engi, Jan Melton  
*Please keep the church staff updated on those who are listed.*

### FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

Mary Blackman and family, family of Marilyn Gallagher, Mary Anne Selber, Anne Jenkins and family,  
Peggy Guilbert and family, Marilyn Madison and family, Glenn Jackson, family of Jean Carroll,  
Amy Bowman and family, Susan Lavergne and family, Brian Carberry and family, Mary Bush and family,  
Mary Jane Lowder and family, Bob Neff and family, Pam Naifeh and family

### FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERVING:

Ryan Markham, U.S. Navy; Jennifer Markham, U.S. Navy; Reed Markham, U.S. Army; Evan Akers,  
U.S. Army; Josh Freidel, U.S. Navy; Evan Richey, U.S. Navy; James Giddens, U.S. Army

**WEEKLY LINK – WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**CURRENT OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Friday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**SUNDAY, January 4**

No Sunday School

10:45 a.m. –Worship Service – In-Person - Sanctuary and also Live Streamed on the Website:  
<https://www.fpcshreveport.org> and First Presbyterian Facebook Page

**MONDAY, January 5**

9:00 a.m. – “Unhanging” of the Greens

10:00 a.m. – PW Council Meeting – PW Suite

12:00 p.m. – AA

6:00 p.m. – Circle 9 - Carole Mullen’s Home

**TUESDAY, January 6**

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - FPDS

5:30 p.m. – PNC Meeting – Conference Room

**WEDNESDAY, January 7**

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - FPDS

5:15 p.m. – Children’s Ministry Meeting – CE Building

**THURSDAY, January 8**

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - FPDS

5:15 p.m. – Highland Blessing Dinner

6:15 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**FRIDAY, January 9**

10:00 a.m. – Tower Art

12:00 p.m. - AA

**SATURDAY, January 10**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Officer Training

**SUNDAY, January 11**

9:15 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal – CE Building

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:45 a.m. – Worship Service – In-Person – Sanctuary and also Live Streamed on the Website:  
<https://www.fpcshreveport.org> and First Presbyterian Facebook Page

Presbyterian 101 Luncheon After Worship – PW Suite

5:00 p.m. – Youth Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 p.m. – Youth Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Fourth Floor Youth Area



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING

Training materials for newly elected church officers are available online at [www.revba.org](http://www.revba.org). The site includes short training videos designed to accompany the officer preparation booklet and may be viewed at your convenience.

A [downloadable PDF](#) version of the booklet is also available, allowing officers-elect to read, review, and reflect on the material in advance of the training day and examination that will be held on:

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

**9am to 2pm**

A special session meeting is being called for Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 1pm for the purpose of examining the newly elected officers and sustaining their election to service.



### *Presbyterian 101*

**Interested in becoming a member at FPC?**

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

Join us after worship to learn more about our congregation and the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
**Lunch Provided**



### *Legacy Luncheon*

**Please Save the Date**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**  
after worship in the Gymnasium



### *A Congregational Conversation*

**A PNC hosted lunch and conversation**

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

after worship for everyone who considers themselves  
a part of the FPC Community