

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 5, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Christmas Oratorio -part VI - Epiphany by J. S. Bach* (3:25) BT

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Deb Albrecht

As disciples of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we experience God's unconditional love, and we witness to others by discovering and sharing our gifts.

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Shepherds arose from their fields and travelled to Bethlehem,

P: Magi from the East, versed in astrology, followed the star and found the child.

L: To those who search, this child is the distinct and unique mystery of God, salvation to the simpletons as well as the sophisticated.

P: Offering their gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh, filled with joy, the Magi bowed and blessed the Christ-child.

L: With mindful preparation, heartfelt expectation, and joyful celebration, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 56*

The First Nowell

(vv. 1, 3, 6)

EPIPHANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In silence then unison)*

Eternal God, whose Son, Jesus, is the light of the world: In Jesus' penetrating light, we acknowledge our unacknowledged shadowy darkness; in his constant grace our casual love; in his generous giving our grasping; in his equal justice, our dire prejudice; in his fortitude our fear of failure; in his unconditional, inclusive love, our deep divide divisiveness; in his wholeness, our soul's brokenness.

In your mercy, forgive us of our sins. Make us mindful of our mortality, that our hope may rest in Christ's eternity, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: As God's Epiphany people, live fully alive to the joy of Christ's incarnate birth in the world, and you are forgiven.

P: In freedom and forgiveness, let us forgive one another.

* EPIPHANY CELEBRATION: *No. 28 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice v. 3*
***Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY: *Love Has Come (vv. 1 & 3, No. 110, GTG)*
***Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in
Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you,
a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.***
***Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting
and free. Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the
gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Kings shall come offering God their gifts.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Through the church the hidden mystery
of God is revealed and known.

ANTHEM: *"We Three Kings" by Andy Beck* Chancel Choir
Piano: Andrea Morokutti

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2: 1-12

Jesus is the mystery of God.

MEDITATION: *Christmas Mystery* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Nicene Creed, A.D. 325*

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, 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 on 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. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 309 Of the Father's Love Begotten (vv. 1 & 3)*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Elder Deb Albrecht

L: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

P: People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

P: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

L: This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". Matthew 11: 28–30

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.

John 6: 40

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come into them and eat with them, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 20

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And with your spirit.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,
& THE LORD'S PRAYER:

L: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

P: O God, awaken within us the grace of Jesus' humility, the miracle of his hospitality, and the mystery of his generosity that we may live as beacons of Jesus' light and true ambassadors of Jesus' peace and love. This we ask as we pray together in Jesus' name, saying "Our Father, who art . . . the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

OFFERING OF THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, receive the bread,
take the cup, and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Elder Deb Albrecht

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: For the complete reign and rule of Christ's kingdom on and over our lives, we praise you, O God. We rejoice that because He lives and lives in us, we are assured that nothing past, present, nor things to come shall separate us from your great love, revealed in Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 68 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDECTION

* CHORAL BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE: *Canón & Gigue in D Minor by Pachelbel*

(4-34) BT

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather.

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

Healing for Friends & Families:

Cancer: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Henry Parsons, Peter Porzio, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Thomas Cheevers, Lucy Cuipa, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

Prayers of Condolences for the family of Joan Albrecht, step-mother of Gary Albrecht

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship & Communion

Mon., Jan. 6 *Office Closed*

Tues., Jan. 7

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Wed., Jan. 8

7:00 PM M&W and Christian Ed./OC

Sat., Jan. 11

9:00 AM Presbyterian Women/FH

Sun., Jan. 12

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Mission Meeting/FH

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Robin Kasprenski

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Piano: Andrea Morokutti

Worship Leader & Communion

Assistant: Deb Albrecht

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ushers: Bill Olivier & Chester Topolski

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Coffee Hour: -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile Phone Bluetooth: – If you are able, please turn off your Bluetooth on your electronic device(s). Thank you.

Presbyterian Women (PW): On Saturday, Jan. 11 at 9:00 AM, PW will hold a breakfast meeting in Fellowship Hall to socialize and to discuss plans for the new year. If you are able, please bring a contribution to our potluck breakfast and feel free to invite a friend. All women who are members or friends of the Presbyterian Church are members in good standing of PW. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 12. (Sunday, Jan. 5 will be the Epiphany Family service.) We look forward to welcoming your children back to Faith Works and Children and Worship classes on the 12th.

News Bits articles of interest/dates for the winter issue are due to the church office as soon as possible!

FPCB Book Club: The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be held at 7 PM on Wed., Jan. 15, hosted by Melissa Randolph on Lambert Rd. We will discuss The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Annual Reports: Ministries and organization of the church please note that your Annual Reports will be due in the church office Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Electronic Giving: Just a friendly reminder that electronic giving is available at our website at www.fpcb-nj.org. Look for the button and make a one-time or reoccurring donation towards our General Account, Building Fund, Deacon Ministry, Food Pantry, Presbyterian Women, or the Presbyterian Mission Special Offerings. This electronic giving service is powered by the Presbyterian Foundation.



2025 Pledge Forms: Just a friendly reminder that it is not too late to turn in your 2025 pledge form! You may place your pledge form in the offering plate or mail/drop off at the church office. Additional copies are in the narthex and on the communication table in Fellowship Hall.

Gift Cards! Dunkin Donuts, ShopRite, ACME, Panera, and Starbucks cards are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves and Fishes!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org

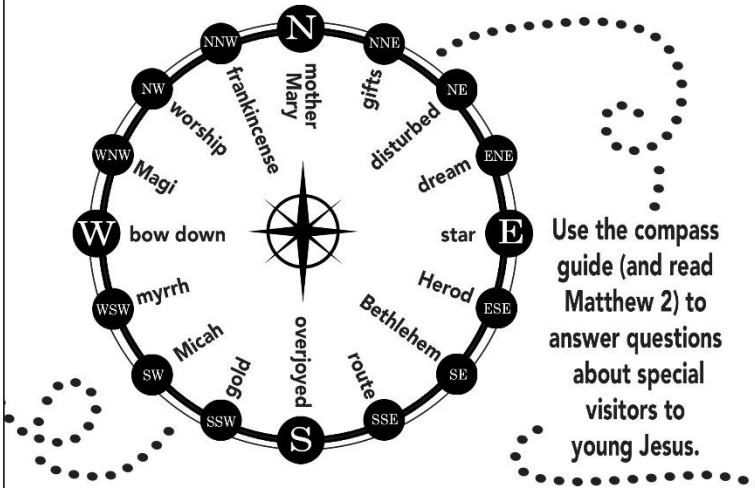
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595



For kids and kids at heart!

Puzzle!



1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews?
_____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. Bethlehem; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense; myrrh; 12. gold; 13. gifts; 14. route