



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
KIRKWOOD

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
January 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday

Mission: *We are called to be a welcoming and supportive community whose inspiring worship of God encourages everyone to deepen their faith and to respond to the needs of the world with the compassion of Christ.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

_____ ***Please rise in body or spirit.** _____

Chiming of the Hour

We encourage you to quiet your minds and hearts for worship at this time.

Welcome and Announcements

Sign the Friendship Register at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor.

Organ Voluntary

Prelude in G

Felix Mendelssohn

WE ADDRESS OURSELVES TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Arise, shine, for Your light has come!

People: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Leader: We have followed the star, across deserts of doubt and valleys of hope.

People: **We bring our gifts, our questions, our whole selves to the Christ-child.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who welcomes the seekers and opens the way.

People: **Let us worship God, who is still revealing holy light!**

*** Processional Carol**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Hymn #143

***Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

God of light and revelation, we confess that we often choose comfort over courage, and certainty over mystery. Like Herod, we fear what we cannot control. Like the Magi, we search for meaning but too often we miss the signs right in front of us. We ignore voices from the margins, we hesitate to follow Your Spirit down unfamiliar roads, and we hold back the gifts You have placed in our hands. Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to the stars You set before us. Open our hearts to Your widening welcome. Guide us again by Your holy light, that we may find our way to Christ and be transformed by wonder.

***Silent Confessions**

***Assurance of God's Grace**

***Response to Confession** Angels, from the Realms of Glory Hymn #143
Refrain

***The Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share that peace with one another.

A Conversation with Young Disciples

All children are invited to come forward for the children's message.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 6:1-6; Pew Bible, O.T., pg. 635

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Behold, a Star from Jacob Shining

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is He, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12; Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Way Of Wonder

Rev'd. Gary Noonan

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Anthem

We Three Kings

arr. Tom Trenney and Jeremy Bankson

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh. Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice: alleluia sounds through the earth and skies.

Prayer of Dedication

Recognition of Louisa Wimmer, Chancel Choir Section Leader

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are invited to celebrate Communion. The bread is gluten-free to ensure that all are welcome to the table.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Leader: Just as the Magi followed the star, we are drawn to Christ's table.

People: We come with wonder, with gifts, with hope.

Leader: This is not the church's table, it is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

People: We come, not because we are perfect, but because we are loved.

Leader: So come, bring your joy, your longing, your story.

People: Here, we meet Christ in bread and cup. Thanks be to God!

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

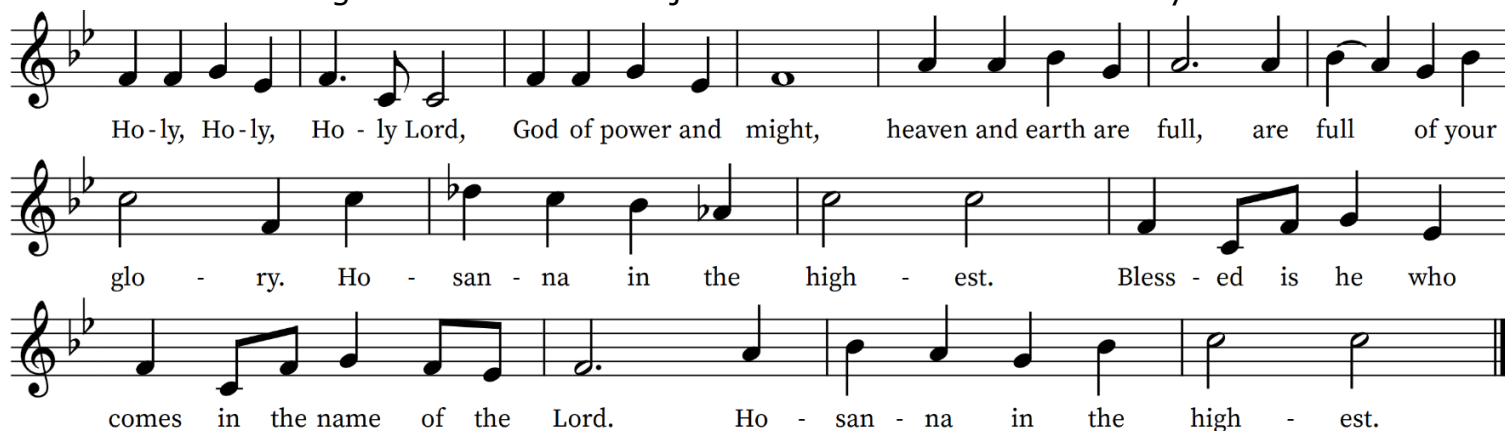
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and good and joyful

to give You thanks...we join our voices in the ancient hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, 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.

Leader: Holy are you, O God...

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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.**

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Hymn

The First Nowell

Hymn #147

Prayer Of Commitment (Unison)

God of the journey, we have tasted Your grace at this table, and we are grateful. Like the Magi, we have encountered Christ, and we cannot go back the way we came. Send us now by another road, the road of justice, the path of compassion, the way of peace. Help us to carry Your light into the shadows of this world, sharing Your love with all we meet.

WE DEPART TO SERVE THE LORD

***Carol**

As With Gladness Men of Old

Hymn #150

***Benediction**

Choral Response

A Christmas Blessing

text: Church of Ireland
music: Philip Stopford

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the Wise Men and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas. May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly, all things heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. And the blessing of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Improvisation on 'As With Gladness Men of Old'

Kevin Chunko

Worship Leaders:

Rev'd. Gary Noonan, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rachel Finken, Associate Pastor

Music Ministry:

Bill Stein, *Director of Music Ministries*; Kevin Chunko, *Music Associate*; Chancel Choir

Cross Bearer: Wyatt Butler **Acolyte:** Adrienne Butler

Communion Servers: Frank Darr, Angela Gracey, Jason Mitchell, Kim Selle, Adam Shipley, Sue Smith

Ushers: Georgia Hepp, Lindsay Marting, Hanna Evens, Ron Evens, Dan Meckes

Usher Captain: Art McDonnell

Livestream Host: Gary Hepp