



North Presbyterian Church

"Let us stir one another up to love and good deeds" – Hebrews 10.24

Through the rich diversity of God's people, and our heritage as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) we express the faith of Christ, seeking to model in our life together the Beloved Community.

Together we are ambassadors for Christ: **joining** together to praise, **standing** together in service, **marching** together for justice, **praying** together for peace.

Epiphany Sunday
January 1, 2016

Prelude

Call to Worship

Minister Arise, shine; for your light has come,
All **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Minister Nations shall come to your light
All **and rulers to the brightness of your rising.**

Minister The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All **And also with you.**

Minister Let us worship God.

Hymn #134

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Opening Prayer

Confession of Sin

All **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 baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Hymn #555

Agnus Dei

All **O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hymn #113

Gloria in Excelsis

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift 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. Then 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. A 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.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72 NRSV

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

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

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12 NRSV

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [*Refrain*]
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [*Refrain*]
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [*Refrain*]
5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [*Refrain*]

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV

Reader The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Hymn #150

As with Gladness Men of Old

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

The Nicene Creed

All **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.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us give thanks to God: *or* Let us pray to the Lord:
We thank you, our God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Minister The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Offering

Hymn #606

Doxology

All **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Minister Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Hymn #552

Sanctus and Benedictus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Hymn #600

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Hymn #136

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [*Refrain*]
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [*Refrain*]
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [*Refrain*]

Charge and Blessing

Minister The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

All **Alleluia! Amen.**

Postlude

North Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 2185, Kalamazoo, MI 49003 * (269) 569-4800
www.WeAreNorth.org * Email: northchurchoffice@gmail.com

Announcements

Church Night Supper – Thursdays, 5:30pm, at FCC.

Recovery, Inc. – Tuesdays, 12pm. Mental Health support group @ FCC

Freedom Group – Wednesdays, 7pm. Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 12-Step support group @ FCC.

Spiritual Formation – Sundays, 9am, upstairs in the Mary/Martha Room. Class by Rev. Nathan Dannison.

Resiliency Group – Sundays, 9am, upstairs in the Youth Room. Class on resiliency by a social worker.

Bible Study – 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10am in the library @ FCC.

Study Group – Thursdays, 1pm, at Stadium Drive Apartments (4249 Lakesedge Dr).

We are reading together *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. Copies available for \$10. See Pastor Barrett.

Potluck Lunch – December 11, immediately after worship. Downstairs dining room at FCC. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Congregational Leadership Team – Joint meeting of Session and Deacons. Third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: December 21, 5:30pm. Christmas Party.

Morning Prayer – In the Chapel at St. Luke's Episcopal (247 W Lovell St). Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am.

Togetherness Group – (269) 569-3826

Upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Pickup Time
12/6	Dollar Store	12:30-1:30
12/13	Christmas Card Party	12:30-1:30
12/20	Light Tour	5:30-6:30
1/10	Old Country Buffet	10:30-11:30
1/17	Bingo	12:30-1:30
1/24	Movies	12:30-1:30
1/31	Lunch	10:30-11:30

December Birthdays: *December- 8 – Carolyn Ruth, 10 – Jean Fontaine, 20 – David Circosta, 21 – Wade King-MacDonald*

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