

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



January 4, 2026  
10:30 A.M.

Epiphany of our Lord

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

INTROIT

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*  
(Text can be found in Hymn 827)

GREETING

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

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

**And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.**

Nations shall come to your light

**And rulers to the brightness of your rising.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God, Alleluia!

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Alleluia!**

With joy let us pray to our Savior, the Son of God who became one of us, saying:

The grace of God be with us all. O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place where the Word of life is not received. Draw the whole creation to yourself that your salvation may be known through all the earth.

**The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Savior and Lord, extend your church to every place. Make it a place of welcome for people of every race and tongue.

**The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Ruler of rulers, direct the work and thoughts of the leaders of nations that they may seek justice, and further peace and freedom for all.

**The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Master of all, supporter of the weak and comfort of the afflicted, strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen. Watch over the lonely and those in danger. Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith of the persecuted.

**The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, light made manifest as the true light of God, gladden our hearts on the joyful morning of your glory; call us by our name on the great Day of your coming; and give us grace to offer, with the hosts of heaven, unending praise to God in whom all things find their ending, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 152

*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Even when God's light gives us a clear path to follow, we find ourselves wandering in the wilderness. We do not need to hide from the light, we can come before God with every part of our lives, that we may be restored to God's way for us. Let us pray:

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

*A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.*

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 467)

*Give Us Light*

JYOTHI DHO

Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord (3x)

## POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is creating new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered. They shall not even cross God's mind. Be glad and rejoice forever in what God is creating: newness of life.

**In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. Alleluia!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 113) Refrain Only

GLORIA

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 145)

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in the Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (O.T. p. 734)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 1:1-18 (N.T. p. 91)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Bailey Pickens

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(the Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

#### MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion*

GF Handel

Sarah-Nell Martin, alto

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;  
O thou that tellest good tidings in Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;  
Lift up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!  
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light has come,  
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.*

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

### SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Sung by all: (Hymn 552)*

**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.**

*The prayer continues.*

## 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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

\*HYMN 744

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Bailey Pickens*

Liturgist: *Diane Bowers*

Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Ellen Sweet*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsba Nash*

## The Life of the Church

**Today we welcome to the pulpit, Rev. Bailey Pickens.** Bailey is the Community Connections Director at Franklin Presbyterian Church, Franklin, KY, where she has worked since 2021. A Florida native, she has lived and worked in Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Arizona and now resides in Nashville with her wife Kelli, an Episcopal priest and PhD student.

Printed copies of this week's **PresbyNotes** newsletter are available on the table in the hall.

**You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:**

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right  
\*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.50 is taken from your donation
- Online at [fpcobky.com/give](http://fpcobky.com/give)  
\*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.30 is taken from your donation
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawal



**Financial Update** Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

**Year-To-Date (thru Oct.)**

Income: \$ 557,705.36

Expense: \$ 558,439.80

Balance: (-\$ 734.44)

**Month To Date (Oct. Final)**

Income: \$ 214,624.62

Expense: \$ 227,245.89

Balance: (-\$ 12,621.27)

**Week of November 2**

Income: \$ 5,890.00

Expense: \$ 3,534.36

Balance: \$ 2,355.64

**Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.**



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

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