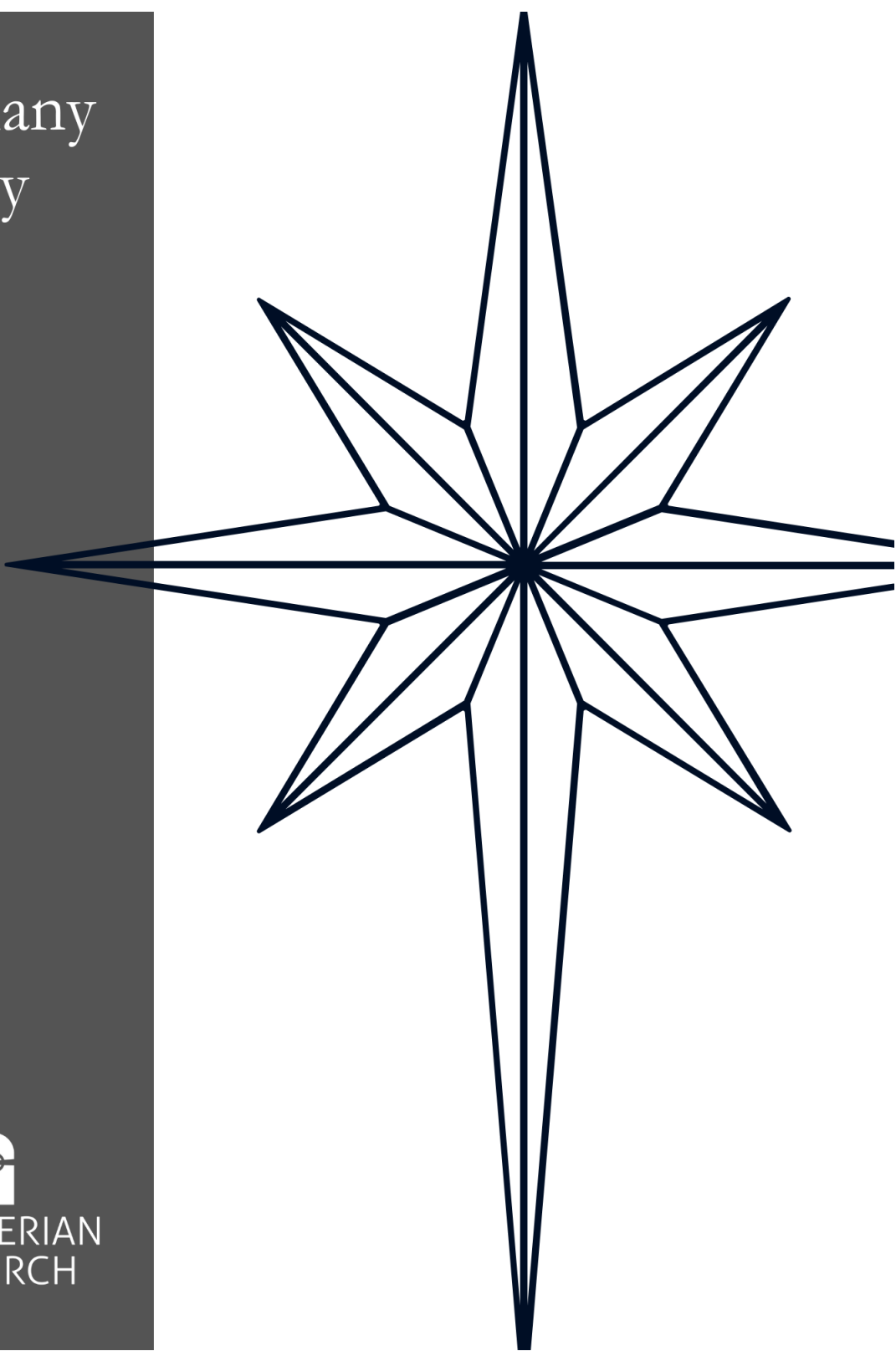


Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025
10:30 A.M.



FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Adagio in D-flat* Franz Liszt

INTROIT *O Gladsome Light* arr. Claude Goudimel

GREETING

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord gathers us all.

God brings them from the north, from the far ends of the earth; the weak with the strong, the eager with the unsure, the tired with the renewed-- all together, a vast throng returning to worship.

Like children returning to a beloved parent.

The One who scattered the stars now gathers us.

We will sing; we will rejoice. We will look to the stars and be glad!

We will be fed at the Table. We will be satisfied with God's bounty.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, the new year offers us the blessing of New Beginnings. We start by giving you thanks. We continue by determining to be your servants. We will carry on, even through difficult days and frequent struggles, until we feel ourselves lifted by your glory. For it is in the name of Christ that we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 401 *Here in This Place* GATHER US IN

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The Magi were led to Jesus by a star. But we often miss the Lord's guidance. Let us pray that God will enlighten our way ahead in this new year. Let us turn to God now, confessing our sins, in the name of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Redeem your world, O Lord. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from whatever is evil, liberate us from the grasp of sin's unique oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Kyrie (from Service in E)

Leo Sowerby

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Baptism is for the forgiveness of sin, and for the Spirit's offering of the new perspective of faith. Remember your baptism and be thankful!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 150)

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

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

As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word. Let that Word be your light shining in the darkness for us all. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:3-14

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

*John 1:10-18

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

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*HYMN 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Inclusive Language Version of The Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, and offering and a sacrifice before God. Let us come before God with our tithes and our offerings

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, he has not made.

*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.

As you come forward, please take an Epiphany Star.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

The Star Carol

Alfred Burt

Long years ago on a deep winter night, High in the heav'ns a star shone bright,

While in a manger a wee baby lay, Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

*Jesus the Lord was that baby so small, Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
Then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light 'round His little bed.*

*Dear baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art, I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,
And when the stars in the heavens I see, Ever and always I think of Thee.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We are fed at the Lord's Table; we are full of the Lord's bounty. We have received a star to celebrate God's lighting our way. We have heard good news, and now we will share what we have. Thank you for blessing us, O Lord! Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 152 *What Star is This, With Beams So Bright* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Carillon du Longpont* Louis Vierne

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Jerry Price*

Communion Servers: *Glenda Price & Patti Price*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsha Nash*

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
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawa



The Life of the Church

SpiritLifters will meet Tuesday, January 7th, at 5:30 PM at the Miller House. Please let Jerry Price know if you will be attending.

Year End Giving: The end of the year is quickly approaching. All 2024 donations need to be sent to the office no later than Sunday, January 12th.

If you are currently using **ACH (direct debit)** for your offering and would like to make any changes for 2025, please contact the office immediately to let us know what changes need to be made. The current setup for your ACH will continue in 2025 unless we hear from you.

Annual Reports from each church committee are due to the church office no later than **Monday, January 13, 2024.**

2025 Giving Envelopes are located on the table in the hallway outside of the library. The boxes are no longer numbered. Please reach out to Debbie Hutchinson if you have any questions.

2025 Pledge Update: 63 pledges received for a total of \$306,160. Please be sure to turn in your pledge card so we can make our goal of \$450,000.

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

Year (through Nov.)	Month of Dec. (to date)	Week Ending Dec. 24
Income: \$443,279.18*	Income: \$ 48,855.50	Income: \$ 4,893.00
<u>Expense: \$493,830.76</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 39,107.66</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 16,249.55</u>
Balance:(-\$ 50,551.58)	Balance: \$ 9,747.85	Balance:(-\$ 11,356.55)

*This includes \$20,000.00 from Permanent Funds

Want to help? If you are writing or renewing your will, please remember the church.



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.

1328 Griffith Avenue | Owensboro, Kentucky | 270.684.1467



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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Allison Bates
Pat Corkran
Marilyn Ericksen
Tom Furlong
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Marilyn Baker
Rayma Bramschreiber
Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Linda Kabalen
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington
Interim Pastor

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Patrick Ritsch
Music Director & Organist

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Angie Hall
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Bookkeeper