

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10 am*

*"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him." (Matthew 2:10-11)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*

HYMN #63: "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"

---

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that 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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

---

Christ is born!  
Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD shines upon us.

Like the magi, we are drawn to the light from the four corners of the earth,  
 from the north, from the south,  
 from the east, and from the west.

But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

We come from many nations and many cultures.  
 We come seeking the light that guides us to life,  
**and leads us to lives that reflect God's light to those around us.**

Let us lift up our many voices and praise God who has called us,  
 and still calls all people to himself.

\*

---

HYMN #67: *BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS OF THE MORNING*

---

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
 Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!

Shall we then yield Him, in costly devotion,  
 Odors of Edom and offerings divine;  
 Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
 Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
 Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;  
 Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

---

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

---

God of glory,  
 you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
 to reveal your love for all people.

We confess that we're seldom as devoted as the magi in seeking you,  
 and too often 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 pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed,  
 we might be captivated with your glory,  
 and may show forth your glory in our lives,

in our church,  
and to the world.

*After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.*

\*

---

HYMN #423: *JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN*

---

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

---

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

---

Sermon: *"Lessons from the Magi"*

Matthew 2:1–12

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,  
for a ruler will come from you  
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

<sup>9</sup> After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

<sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

---

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

---

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed, and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer*

*Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"*

*Communion*

*The Apostles' Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

\*

---

### HERE IS LOVE

Here is love vast as the ocean,  
Loving kindness as the flood;  
When the Prince of Life our ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood.

Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten,  
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,  
Fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love like mighty rivers,  
Poured incessant from above.  
Heaven's peace and perfect justice,  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let us all His love accepting,  
Love Him ever all our days;  
Let us seek His kingdom only,  
And our lives to be His praise.  
He alone shall be our glory,  
Nothing in the world we see;  
He has cleansed and sanctified us,  
He Himself has set us free.

*"Here Is Love" by Ian Yates, Robert Lowry, and William Rees.  
© 2009 Thankyou Music; CCLI License # 1680430.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Caring Hearts (after the service in the parlor)
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
Thursday, Jan. 9	Session (7:00 pm)
Saturday, Jan. 11	Creation Station (11:00 – 1:00)
Sunday, Jan. 12	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*,  
copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation.  
Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

### First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth: 847.800.7119 (cell) / [chuck@aberdeenpres.org](mailto:chuck@aberdeenpres.org)

Church Office: 360.532.1330 / [office@aberdeenpres.org](mailto:office@aberdeenpres.org)

Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

[aberdeenpres.org](http://aberdeenpres.org)