

# EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 12, 2025



(502) 245-5818  
anchoragepresbyterian.org

## OPENING SENTENCES

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**All: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

## WELCOME

**PRELUDE** | The Three Kings arr. John David Peterson

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

**All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

**All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

**All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

+ **HYMN #150** | As with Gladness Men of Old

+ **CALL TO CONFESSION**

+ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.**

+ **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

+ **RESPONSE #582**

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## SHARING THE FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN

*(Children are invited to go upstairs to the nursery or Agape Kidz, for music and crafts.  
All children are welcome to remain in the worship service too. We really do like having them around.)*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** | Don Welsh

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** | Isaiah 43:16-21 (Pew Bible, Old Testament p. 672)

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

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** | Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible, New Testament p. 2)

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Tara N. Reck

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** | by Rev. Sarah Speed

**We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn. And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way. Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God's fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.**

+ **HYMN #147** | The First Nowell (verses 1-5)

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS** | Eli Poole and Jessalyn Poynter

**UNISON PRAYER**

**Holy God, we praise you for calling us to service in your name, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number these new friends in the faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit and so support one another that we will grow in faith, hope, and love, and be true disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.**

**HYMN OF DISMISSAL**

***Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** | Robin Hughes

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** | Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day Richard Shpehard

+ **DOXOLOGY** | (tune of #145) ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise Christ, all people here below.***

***Praise Holy Spirit evermore.***

***Praise triune God whom we adore.***

***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:***

***Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS/DEBTORS)**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

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

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

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

One: Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give you thanks...

...and so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place.

Give online:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er,  
 God of might. Hea-ven and the earth are  
 full, are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

One: Ever-present God, your prophets dreamed of the day...  
 ...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,  
 Christ will come a - gain!

One: Holy God, we follow every path in search of you...We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying. . .

**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.**

**+ COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE/RECEIVING STAR WORDS**

(All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of age or understanding. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. You can also choose a star word at this time. May this spiritual companion be a light to guide your way and illuminate God's presence in your life)

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

+ **HYMN #132** | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** | How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Pachelbel

**Our Concerns:** Dee Hoge, Connie and Tom Knepshild, Jaymme Pedersen (friend of Mary Witherspoon), Tracy Gonzales, Lucy Martin

*(Prayer concerns will remain on our list for a month unless an update is provided to extend the request.)*



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Like any gathering place, a church has a personality. Our historic building and beautiful sanctuary embody the spirit of tradition, yet our Sunday morning worship services are frequently punctuated by laughter. We are a proud member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and have been designated a Matthew 25 church with two foci: eradicating systemic poverty and dismantling structural racism. We have plentiful fellowship opportunities, classes for all ages, and outreach opportunities in which to participate. You can also find space here to recharge, linger in the depth of message and music, and connect with others who readily accept you and rejoice in varied opportunities to be the church together. There is a kind of space here into which all are invited to be themselves and to feel at home. Participate to the degree you feel comfortable.

## Here is some information to help make you feel at home:

- An elevator is located outside the door on the lectern (right) side of the sanctuary.
- WIFI - Router Name: APC Wifi Password: apcSpirit
- Accessible restrooms are outside the door on the lectern (right) side, the main level below that (go left), and the lower level. Baby changing stations are available in the sanctuary level and lower level restrooms.
- Childcare is available upstairs in the nursery from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. every Sunday.
- Activity Bags for children are located on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.
- During the offering, we take a collection of goods for Eastern Area Community Ministries (EACM). Each month's most needed goods are printed under the offering section.
- A first aid kit and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the lectern side (right) doors on the left up on the upper shelf. (Look for the sign)

## WAYS TO LEARN MORE

- Please visit [www.anchoragepresbyterian.org](http://www.anchoragepresbyterian.org) for details about our ministries.
- We also have an active Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/anchoragepresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/anchoragepresbyterian)
- If you would like to be added to our weekly emails, which have information about what is going on in the life of the church, you may do so by scanning the QR code on the bottom of the order of worship or by going to: <https://www.anchoragepresbyterian.org/subscribe-to-newsletter>
- If you have questions, a pastor will be happy to talk with you at your convenience. Simply call the church office at (502) 245-5818, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday (Pastors and the church office take Friday as a sabbath).

Rev. Tara Reck, Pastor

Rev. John Kubar, Associate Pastor

Dr. Robert Bozeman, Minister of Music

Darla Talbert, Children's Music Director

Kathie Carman, Office Administrator

Ben Jackey, Communications Director



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