

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## *The Second Sunday After Christmas*

January 3, 2021

9:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

GATHERING. . .

***Masks are to be worn throughout the service.  
Please remain seated for the hymns.***

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*Behold, That Star*

Robert Page

The Call To Worship

Bill Stewart, liturgist

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

Like sages from afar, come and behold you Christ!

**Let us fall on our knees in his honor!**

**Let us lift our voices in praise of his Name.**

The Prayer of Adoration

**All glory to You, great God, for the gift of Your Son, Whom You sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise Your name, and tell the earth His story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging Your love. We praise You for the amazing and startling good news of our Savior's birth, and we bless You for the gifts of redemption and forgiveness You have sent us through him. All glory, honor, praise and dominion be unto You, O Eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Hymn 143

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: REFRAIN*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: REFRAIN*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, the verbs of the Psalmist remind us of Your actions: You strengthen, bless, grant, fill, send, give, make, and declare. But we confess that our verbs do not always match Yours: we argue, fight, lie, steal, oppress, ignore, refuse, and silence. Forgive us, Lord, for what we've done to tarnish Your holy Name. Give us courage, merciful God, to make our actions match Yours. Help us to shed our sin and join You in Your redemptive work. This we pray in Your good and gracious Name ...(time for silent confession)... .**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

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

\*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

**Dear God, we come hopeful for a word from You to meet our needs, hopeful for a little light to help us to see our way better, a little light in the darkness. Startle us, O God, with Your truth, and come into our lives with Your light and Your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson: *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 147:12-20*

The Anthem

*The Jesus Gift*

Gilbert M. Martin

Chris Fisher, Mary Ann Casey, Roy Jarnecke, Larry Casey

*Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring him gold? Shall I shower diamonds, white hard, bright cold?  
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above? Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,  
Offer him warm laughter and love. Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts; kindness he'll use as he leads.  
So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts;  
Honor his birth and you'll need no emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;  
Neither bright diamonds, white hard, bright cold. Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;  
You'll have laughter, sweet peace filled laughter, simple warm laughter and love.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

\*The Hymn 147

*The First Nowell*

*The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*REFRAIN: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

*And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. REFRAIN*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. REFRAIN*

The Gospel Lesson: *John 1:(1-9) 10-18*

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

The Sermon

*The Word Made Flesh*  
Brittany Tamminga

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

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.**

The Prayers of the People

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.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*The Postlude

***Kindly remain seated during the Postlude.  
You will be dismissed by our Safety Ushers  
from the back to the front of the Sanctuary.  
We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.***

# Announcements for December 30 - January 6

## ***A Blessing and A Prayer***

I love the way John tells it. His version of the Christmas story is absent of anything we can put into a manger scene - no baby Jesus, no Mary who dared to say yes to an archangel, no Joseph who risked believing in his dreams to ally himself with Mary and her child. No shepherds. No angels. No far-traveling, gift bearing Magi wafting in the fragrances of frankincense and myrrh. John pares away the Christmas story to its essence: The Word. Light. Life. Dwelling among us, in the flesh. Glory and grace and truth.

In his telling, John the Evangelist invokes John the Baptist, Jesus' way-making cousin who haunts the season of Advent; himself a pared-down figure - the wilderness having worn away anything that would have hindered him from his call. John the Baptist is utterly at home in John the Evangelist's telling of the story that enchants with its poetic simplicity and beauty. The Baptist knows about the basics, knows about getting to the heart of things, knows what it means to divest ourselves of anything that hinders us from preparing a way for the Word and proclaiming its presence in our midst.

And so for this day, in the Spirit of John the Evangelist and John the Baptist, a simple blessing and a prayer: that we may tell the story, that we may testify to the light, that the Word may take flesh in us this day and in all the days to come.



May everyone be filled with peace and joy, this Christmastide!

*Brittany*

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## ***Reserve Your Seat for Sunday Worship by FRIDAY NOON***

If you would like to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary this Sunday, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 540-373-7057, Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.

You may also make your reservation online by using ACSReservations by clicking on this link:

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## ***Church Family News:***

**Capsule of Concern:** Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Donna Hughes, Donn Langfitt, Karla Lewis, Debra Myers, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Pam Werner

**Heartfelt love and sympathies** are extended to Doris Miller on the death of her husband, Jim, who died on December 29, 2020.

## ***Weekly Meetings & Activities***

Wed. (12/30) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

Contact Marsha Luckett ([marshajluckett@gmail.com](mailto:marshajluckett@gmail.com))

Sun. (1/3) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)

Tues. (1/5) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)

Contact John Howe ([jhowe1969@cox.net](mailto:jhowe1969@cox.net)).

Wed. (1/6) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

## Lectionary Readings for Sunday, January 10:

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Mark your calendar for our annual January **Red Cross Blood Drive**: January 26, 2021, from 1:30-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More detail will be coming in future weekly announcements.



A special *Storied* Episode honoring Rev. Allen Fisher's 25<sup>th</sup> year of ministry here at The Presbyterian Church. Thank you Rev. Fisher for your leadership and service in our community. The video is available on our Church's YouTube Channel: [https://youtu.be/D\\_3GDK9iqO8](https://youtu.be/D_3GDK9iqO8)

## ***Birthdays this week January 3-10***

3. Brent McGhee
4. Mollie Creasey, Gary Wainwright
6. Joan Darby, Mark Hughes
8. Haley Dameron
9. Bud Baker, Sarah Gormley, Anne Thompson
10. Harry Farley, Bridget Harvey

**Thank for your faithful support of our ongoing ministries.**

Please send your checks to the church office or give online through our website [www.fredericksburgpc.org](http://www.fredericksburgpc.org).



**Cold Weather Clothesline** ~ Are you looking for ways to serve neighbors in need? As the months grow colder, consider hanging a scarf, hat, gloves, socks, etc. on our Cold Weather Clothesline we have placed along our church fence (both George and Princess Streets). All donations should be placed in Ziplock bags and then hung (using clothespins we will provide) anytime along the clotheslines. Passersby will be encouraged to take as they have need.

**Thank you to all** who supplied dinners and cookies for the community meal on December 19, and thank you to those who delivered the much-appreciated meals to Micah guests at local motels. Our church also supplied a pizza dinner on December 29. Thanks to all who helped in any way with that meal and delivery. Look for updates on how you can help with future meal deliveries. Questions? Contact Karen Johnson, 540-621-5685 ([ksjohnson422@msn.com](mailto:ksjohnson422@msn.com)).

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS ~ Winter/Spring Semester, 2021**



Our Christian Ed. goals are to create community, teach the biblical story, and equip disciples to respond to the call of the gospel in our world. This semester's course offerings and opportunities for faith formation will kick off via Zoom the week of **January 10**.

### ***Children and Family***

This semester, we will give children and families opportunities to grow in Christ's love, learn the stories of Jesus, and be supported by a strong community of faith with at-home resources.

### ***Youth***

This semester, we will have discussion-based education via Zoom. All in-person youth activities are suspended through January.

### ***Adults (Youth participation is welcomed and encouraged)***

We are committed to providing learning opportunities that allow participants to engage in a range of study options.

We encourage your participation in one or more of the following **Church School Classes via Zoom**.

### ***Faith and Movie Class***

*Sunday, 10:30 am, led by Marty and Vicky Wilder*

Do you enjoy watching movies – old favorites and unfamiliar titles? If you enjoy discussing stories and themes in movies, and relating them to our own sacred stories and faith, this class is for you. Class participants choose a movie for everyone to watch during the week and then lead the discussion in class.

### ***Discovering the Psalms***

*Sunday, 12:00 pm, led by Brittany Tamminga & Lindsey Williams*

The book of Psalms is the one book of the Bible everyone can find easily, and hardly a person in or out of the church is not familiar with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." However, there are many psalms and many aspects of psalms as literature with which few of us are familiar. This class invites participants to journey toward a greater understanding and love for these sacred verses. With more information about the book as a whole, as well as particular psalms, we will find Psalms nurturing our spirits in a more profound, helpful way.

### ***Creation Care and the Congregation***

*Sunday, 2:00 pm, led by James Lockett*

This class will use *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis*. This thoughtful study by respected Old Testament scholar Patricia K. Tull explores the Scriptures for guidance on today's ecological crisis. Tull looks to the Bible for what it can tell us about our relationships, not just to the earth itself, but also to plant and animal life, to each other, to

descendants who will inherit the planet from us, and to our Creator. We will engage in discussions on many current ecological problems that humans contribute to, such as the overuse of energy resources like gas and electricity, consumerism, food production systems—including land use and factory farming—and toxic waste. This study will help us look at our role as a congregation in the work of creation care from a theological and biblical perspective as well as tangible action steps for us individually and collectively.

### ***Book Study: Learning to Speak God from Scratch***

*Tuesday, 7:00 pm, led by Jen Rowe*

This class will examine the book, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words are Vanishing - and How We Can Revive Them*, by Jonathan Merritt who, after moving from the Bible Belt to New York City, discovered that the sacred terms he used to describe his spiritual life didn't connect as they had in the past. This launched him into an exploration of an increasing American reluctance to talk about faith. In this book study, we will explore vague and cliché-ridden words like blessed, disappointment, mystery, and even God to help restore and revive a vocabulary of faith and find a renewed ability to connect with our neighbors and friends in richer and more meaningful conversations of religious identity and practice.