



~The Gathering~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

*Prelude Sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie*  
Tami Newsom, organ

Durufle

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Call to Worship

Come, hear the Christmas news:

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Come, sing the Christmas story:

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Come, worship the Christmas child.

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Hymn #28

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin, Trans. And para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt. Music: German folk tune, 14<sup>th</sup> century, Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953.  
*The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs* © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

**O Holy One, forgive us when we fail to live in the good news of your Christmas story: when we hear the choir sing, “Rejoice!” but we do not join their chorus; when we know the angels say, “Do not fear,” yet fear is all we can muster; when we see a star rising in the east, but we turn away from its light. Forgive us, O Lord, of the sins of our lives and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt. Convict us with the cry of a child from a manger, and free us to try again.**

*(please continue in silent prayer)*

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### ~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

**O God, nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. By the compelling radiance of your Spirit, draw us near, reveal your truth, and teach us faithful obedience to your holy Word. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Psalms 147

Dr. Angela Batey, psalmist

Keith Duke

*Refrain: Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem.*

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blest your children within you. *Refrain*

He has established peace in your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends forth his command to the earth and his word runs very swiftly. *Refrain*

He gives snow like wool and scatters the hour frost like ashes.  
He cast down his hail stones like morsels of bread; who can endure his frost?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind and the waters flow. *Refrain*

He declares his word to Jacob, his statues and judgements to Israel.  
He has not dealt so with any other nation; they do not know his laws. *Refrain*

From *New Psalms for Common Worship*, Editor/Arranger Keith Duke, Publisher: Kevin Mayhew  
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Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“Fear Factor”

Rev. Matt Nieman

## ~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*, 9.27)

**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

The Anthem *We Three Kings* arr. Richard Lambardo  
FPC Flute Trio ~ Ashley Boone, Lynn Kszos, MaryAnne Walls

Call for the Offering

## ~The Eucharist~

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

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.**

The Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

## ~The Sending~

Hymn #66

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Three Kings of Orient

**We three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

***Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt., Intro. Robert Stigall, 1988  
*The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs* © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Recessional on "Dix"*  
Tami Newsom, organ

te Velde

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If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- scan this QR Code and click on the generated google doc link or
- go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance> or
- email the office at [office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org)

Continuing through the month of January,  
**[FPC worship will be online only](#)**  
(no indoor, in-person worship) due to the continuing rise  
in coronavirus cases in our region.

If the weather allows,  
outdoor worship will be held at 11:00.



A big thank you to all who participated in our annual Christmas sponsoring for **Sunset Gap**. We sponsored 30 children this year. Your gifts will truly make for a special Christmas for these families. Sunset Gap is sponsoring about 200 children this year; requests were still coming in when we made our delivery .



The area Presbyterian Churches in partnership with Edward Jones will be constructing a **Habitat for Humanity** home in Knoxville beginning on March 20, 2021. Habitat of Knoxville needs volunteers from the area churches to help in the construction of this home along with volunteers from Edward Jones. Work will be done on Saturdays beginning March 20, 2021. You can work whatever number of days or time your schedule allows. There will be a pre-construction Zoom meeting on January 14 from 2:00-3:00 pm for anyone interested. If you are interested in volunteering your time in this worthwhile project, you are asked to contact either Buck Jones

(buck@utk.edu) or Wayne Walls (wwalls97@aol.com) so we can turn in your name to Habitat and pass on the link to the January 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting.

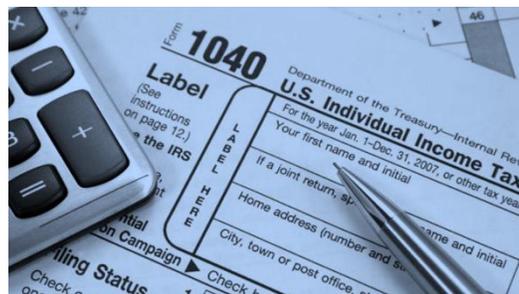
## **2020 Year-End Giving Reminders**

To be counted as a 2020 contribution:

- Checks or cash must have been received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by **12/31/20**.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Your online giving needed to be initiated by Monday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> in time for the transaction to post on Thurs, Dec. 31, 2020. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account was debited for online giving transactions.

Don't file your 2020 tax return before receiving your FPC 2020 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that were \$250 or more.

**Year-end donations statements will be mailed by Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**



## This Week at FPC!

Sun, Jan 03	11:00 a.m. (outdoor) Sunday Worship		
Mon, Jan 04	6:00	p.m.	Youth Groups/Fellowship Hall
	****	****	CEP Closed/ Winter Break
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Zoom
Tues, Jan 05	11:00	a.m.	Lectio Divina/Zoom
	7:00	p.m.	Cub Scout Pack Leaders/Room A
	6:30	p.m.	Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Room A
Wed, Jan 06	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts/FH, Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Outreach Committee/Zoom
	6:00	p.m.	Worship & Music Committee/Zoom
Thurs, Jan 07	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/FH, Room A, Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
Fri, Jan 08	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga Class/Zoom



### Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

Class	Room	Topic
Pastor Matt's Class	Zoom/ and Library	Pastor Matt's Prayer and Bible Study Class will resume at 10 a.m. on January 10, 2021
Adult Bible Study Class	Room A	We use <i>The Present Word</i> . Our winter lesson book looks at God's call throughout the New Testament as a way to explore our own calls. The three units focus on Jesus' heritage (Matthew), Jesus' call (other Gospels), and faithful women (a mix of Gospels and Epistles). Within the overall theme, each lesson stands alone, and we'd love to have you join us any week you're able.
Monday Connection	Zoom/ and Parlor	This class is studying <i>A New Reformation</i> , by author Rob Fuquay. This book will introduce you to the life of Martin Luther and two important themes of the Reformation he sparked: the centrality of Scripture and the power of God's grace.