



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.
*We invite you to stand as able.

EPIPHANY

~The Gathering~

PRELUDE

Prelude sur L'Introit de L'Epiphanie
Tami Newsom, organ

Durufle

GREETING

Rev. Matt Nieman

CALL TO WORSHIP

As the land is renewed each year and new crops sprout,
so the Lord God is restoring us.

We are transformed by God's glory and power,
God's revelation in a little child.

Salvation shall bring complete transformation.

The Lord God is saving us.

With our whole being we rejoice in our God.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN #56

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory.

**Forgive us, Merciful God.
Repair the ugliness of our sin
and restore in us your beautiful grace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

(please continue in silent prayer)



*KYRIE ELEISON

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

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

~The Word~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Susan Harbin

Loving God, before time and space your living Word was with you creating all things. In the fullness of time, he came to bring peace and to show us how to love. By the anointing of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to share his light wherever we go as we carry your good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:15-20

Susan Harbin

The Gospel of the Lord.

[Pew Bible pg. 58]

Praise to you, O Christ.

READING

LisaKay Matchen

It was done plainly enough.
The night sky was a perfect billboard,
the sound effects spectacular.
Only a few were awake
and in the right place
at the right time when heaven,
unable to contain its amazement any longer,
spilled out momentarily into earth and explained itself.
The message was clear as day
but his timing was, as always, surprising,
and the show ran
for one performance only.



From *The Last Straw* © Godfrey Rust, www.wordsout.co.uk.

HYMN #38
#22

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Carol
Regent Square

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Matt Nieman

The Gospel of the Lord.

[Pew Bible pg. 2]

Praise to you, O Christ.

READING

Will you study these signs as carefully
as you study the prices in the Christmas catalogs?
Will you seek out the manger as diligently
as you search for the right scarf or this year's toy?
Will examine your heart's pilgrimage
and be sure towards what stable it carries its precious gifts?
Will you be a wise fool to find and follow
the strange star of truth in a sky full of glittering lies?

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HYMN #36
#68

*In the Bleak Midwinter
What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

Cranham
Puer nobis nascitur

SERMON

“A Story That Matters”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God came to redeem this world of lost children, and to open the way to eternal life, through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. This Jesus who is one with us in our common humanity, is one with God as the incarnation of the second Person of the Trinity. Therefore, we confess that Jesus is one person, truly God and truly human. This mystery of God's grace in Jesus Christ, which can be experienced and proclaimed, but never fully explained, is what ties Christians together in a common faith and life across the centuries.

ANTHEM

We Three Kings

Jordan

Lynn Kszos, flute ~ Tami Newsom, piano

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 Sending~

*HYMN #53

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God
be with you always.

Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #29 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Go Tell It

**Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

*POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Hopson



If you donated towards **POINSETTIAS** this holiday in memory or honor of a loved one, please take them home with you after worship today. We appreciate your help in beautifying the sanctuary in celebration of the nativity of the Lord. *Thank you!*



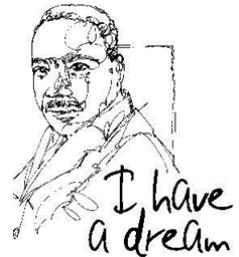
A special thank you to Wayne Walls, Hal Oakley, Ken Ladrach, David Stutzenberger and Tom Koch for volunteering to feed the hungry at **Volunteer Ministry Center** on December 19th. If you would like to participate in this important outreach opportunity, please contact Jean Peretz, January meal coordinator. The next meal will be served on Tuesday, January 16th. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

YOUTH GROUP is currently on holiday break and will resume youth activities on Sunday, January 7th with a **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** starting at 5:45 pm in the youth room! Contact Mason Warren for more information.

The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 15th to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

New Elder Installation will be on Sunday, January 21, 2024

Annual Congregational Meetings will be held after worship services on Sunday, January 28, 2024.



Family Ministries will be hosting a **FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT** with a soup, salad and bread potluck on Sunday, January 28th at 3pm in Fellowship Hall. Watch for the sign-up and more details to come regarding this fun event!

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY: Candy Blake, Denise Damelio, Kathy Emmerson, Billie Fain, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Paul Hanson, Barbara Kivlin, Bron Lewis, Jimmy and Beth Loyless, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Janet Murphy, Tami Newsom, Steve Tinder, Helen Weaver

BEREAVED:

The family of Ruth Ewald, Linda's mother
The family of Diane Lovin, friend of the church
The family of FPC member Bill Lester





The staff would like to express our **SINCERE APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE** to the congregation for their generous giving towards Christmas bonuses this holiday season. It means so much to us and our families. We hope you have a blessed new year filled with hope, joy, peace, and love.



FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934
865/966-9547 ~ www.fpctn.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-1pm

Pastor.....Rev. Matthew Nieman
 Director of Family Ministries.....Mason Warren
 Director of Music..... Dr. Angela L. Batey
 Associate Director of Music.....Tami Newsom
 Music Leader for Casual Worship.....Sandra Porter Bohlken
 Office AdministratorDawn Zilles
 Bookkeeper.....Lori Corbett
 Treasurer.....John Begovich
 Financial Secretary.....Tom Koch

This Week at FPC

Sun, Dec 31	10:00 a.m. Worship Service		
Mon, Jan 01	*****	****	New Year's Day - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tues, Jan 02	5:30	p.m.	Outreach Committee/Library
	6:30	p.m.	Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Room A
Wed, Jan 03	6:00	p.m.	Worship & Music Committee/Library
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Room A
Thurs, Jan 04	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall
	7:00	p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
Fri, Jan 05	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga Class/Narthex

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (No Classes on 12/31)

Class	Room	Topic
Adult Bible Study	Outside or in Room D in bad weather	This class discusses the Lectionary text from the sermon, and still meets under the trees in good weather and in Room D in not-so-good weather.
Pastor Matt's Class	Library	Please come join this Bible and faith topics study at 10:00 in the library led by Pastor Matt.
Youth	Café (Parlor)	The youth Sunday School class meets to "DIVE IN to the Old Testament!" Each week throughout the school year, youth explore a specific book of the Old Testament utilizing videos and discussion.

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@fpcn.org, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.