

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMMUNION /EPIPHANY
Sunday, Jan 7th 2018**

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Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Pianist: Micah Pawluk Music Director: Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

*** Entry of the Bible**

Introit

Call to Worship

*** Hymn:** "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

#177

Opening Prayer:

Unchanging God of light and of life, we praise you for your creation and for the Word made flesh in the child born in Bethlehem. Open our hearts and minds in our worship of you. Draw us beyond the limits of this world and our imagination, to the life where your Holy Spirit makes all things complete. God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and to reveal your love to all people. We confess that our sins and pride hide the brightness of your light; we waste our gifts, we ignore cries for justice, and we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*** Children's Hymn:** "We three kings"

#173

Sing last verse after Children's Time

Children's Time

**"Be Still and Know that I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)
Please take the time before the service as an opportunity to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.**

Upcoming Events at First

Jan 10 th	Board of Managers Meeting	6:30 pm
	Session Meeting	7:00 pm
Jan 11 th	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Jan 12 th	Crafts & Conversations	1:00 pm
Jan 14 th	Sunday Worship	11:00 am
	Baptism of the Lord	



Can You Help?

The Worship Committee is looking for individuals/couples/families who would be willing to collect the offering on Sunday mornings. If you feel this is something you would be interested in doing, please contact Carol Wehrstedt after today's service or by phoning 939-1020. You could sign up for one Sunday, two in a row or even a month at a time. We are presently looking to fill the schedule starting in January. Thank you for considering this worship experience.

"Any requests for spending in 2018 (projects that you/your group/committee think should be tackled, workshops that you would like to attend and need funding for, etc) should be submitted to the Board for inclusion in the 2018 budget ASAP as next year's budget is currently under discussion by the Board"

Thank you, this week, to: Jan 7th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Colin Rackham

Fellowship Time: Fred and Donna Johnson

Elevator Operator: Leo Wehrstedt

Offering Counting: Sandra Allan, Mickey Kennedy & Leila Pettigrew

Offering Collection: Evelyn Kinsman & Rod McKay



Next week's volunteers: Jan 14th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving

Lay Reader: Richard Noy

Fellowship Time: Robert and Beth Workman

Elevator Operator: Doug Brown

Offering Counting: Debbie Linkletter & Maureen Verdone

Offering Collection: Laird and Alice Morrison

Congratulations to WILLARD ALLAN, who turned 80 yesterday, Jan.6. Please join him downstairs to have a piece of his birthday cake during Coffee Time.

Are you enjoying receiving Christmas cards? Please save your cancelled stamps and place them in the basket in the narthex. They are used for leprosy mission work.

"REMINDER" reports for inclusion in the 2017 Annual Report Feb 11th

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation:

#452 v.2

"Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart; bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart."

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6

P. 690 OT

Psalms 72:1-8

P. 533 OT

Matthew 2:1-12

P 2 NT

Gloria Patri:

#594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: "Why Are You Here?"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* **Offertory Response:**

#275 v.5

"Let every creature rise and bring the honours due our glorious King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the long Amen."

Prayer of Dedication:

God of Power and Might, you effortlessly created light in the darkened void of our beginning universe. Today, this light continues to fill the shapeless recesses of our lives. Multiply these gifts, so that your beacon of light shines in every shadowed place on the Earth. May people everywhere receive your light with praise and thanksgiving. We ask this prayer in the name of the one who proclaimed transforming redemption, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

* **Hymn:** "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds"

#357

Affirmation of Faith:**The Apostle's Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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.

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

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 God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Through the words of your prophets you gave your people hope by promising them the Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you for sending your only Son, Jesus, to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again**

We come to this, His Table, in simple trust, seeking the transforming power of your Spirit: on this assembly of your people, on these words and actions, on this bread and wine, in order that, by the miracle of your grace, we may be united to Christ and to one another – one in body, one in spirit, one in faith.

Be with us now through your Holy Spirit as we celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity. Amen.

Sharing the Meal**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts...debtors)****WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

* **Hymn:** "As with gladness men of old" #172

Blessing

Response: #726

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way; bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all. Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call."

Postlude

(Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during the postlude, which is our organist's gift both to you and to God. If you must leave before the postlude concludes, please do so as quietly as possible.)