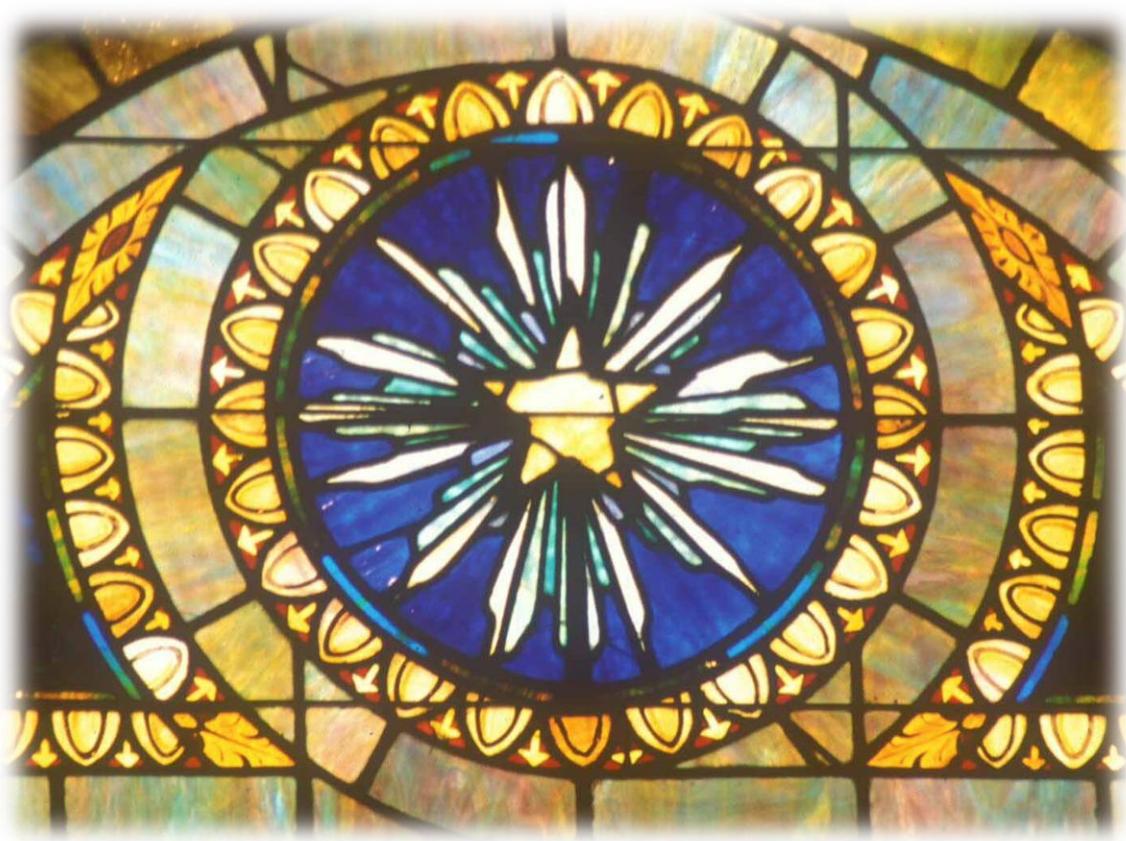


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



**The Sunday before Epiphany
January 4, 2026 | 10:30am**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.

May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

"One of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands. They end up sleeping through a revolution

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Second Sunday of Christmas

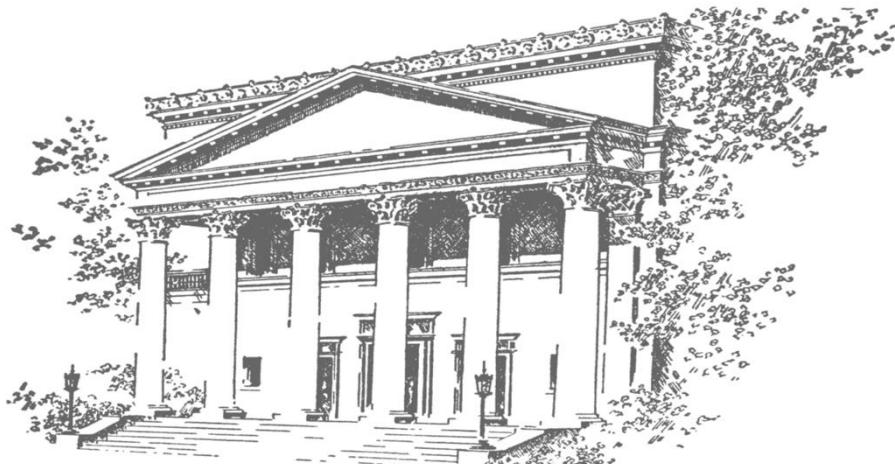
Jeremiah 31:7-14 • Psalm 147:12-20 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 • Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 • Ephesians 3:1-12 • Matthew 2:1-12

Cover art:

Stained Glass Window
First Presbyterian Church
Charleston, West Virginia



*Seek the welfare of the city where I
have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare you will
find your welfare.*

Jeremiah 29:7

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*indicates congregation standing, as able.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel Albury

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come!
All: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

One: Though darkness covers the earth, God's light breaks forth.

All: **Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

One: Come, let us worship the Lord whose light shines in the darkness!

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Daniel Albury

One: Wake up! The world trembles.

All: **We light this candle as a sign of hope against hope.**

One: God comes into our fear, our waiting, and our doubt.

All: **Emmanuel - God with us - shines even when we cannot see.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #151 We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 5)

KINGS OF ORIENT

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our lives.

All: **Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.**

**Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from your light:
when we follow our ambitions instead of your call,
when we respond to your presence with fear rather than joy.**

**Forgive us, O God,
when we do not comprehend the depth of your Christmas love,
the meaning of your powerful story,
or the call you place on each of our lives.**

**Forgive us, O God,
and by your forgiveness, empower us to follow the star once more.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of God has risen upon us. Tell the good news throughout the earth! In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: **The saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all! Thanks be to God!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us (vs. 1)

WACHET AUF

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us; the shout of ram-part guards surrounds us:
 "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Mid-night's peace their cry has brought us;
 their urgent summons clearly spoken:
 "The time has come, O maid-ens wise!
 Rise up, and give us light;
 the Bride-groom is in sight. Alleluia!
 Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share."

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Daniel Albury

page 690, *Old Testament***SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Daniel Albury

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 533, *Old Testament*

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

As with Gladness Men of Old

Conrad Kocher, William Chatterton Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
 There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
 So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.
 Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 2, New Testament

All: **Thanks be to God.****A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Pastor Myers

Birth - K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
 Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117/119
 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

"Hoping Against Hope"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN**

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

MORNING STAR

1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing, Dawn on our dark - ness and
 2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing, Low lies his head with the
 3. Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, O - dors of E - dom and
 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gifts would his
 5. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing, Dawn on our dark - ness and

lend____ us thine aid; Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a -
 beasts____ of the stall; An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re -
 of - ferings di - vine, Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the
 fa - vor se - cure; Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o -
 lend____ us thine aid; Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a -

-dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 -clin - ing, Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all!
 o - cean, Myrrh from the for - est, or gold____ from the mine?
 -ra - tion, Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 -dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD**JOYS & CONCERNS**

Pastor Myers

OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.

You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

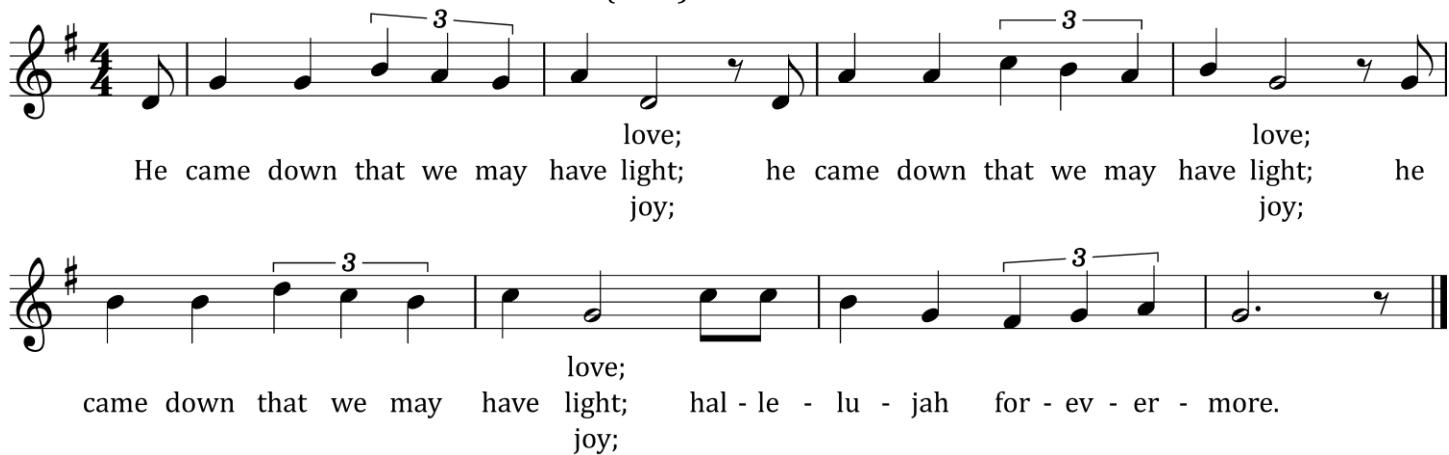
One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, God of majesty and splendor...

...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing the glory of your name:

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down (*Love*)

HE CAME DOWN



love;
He came down that we may have light; joy;
he came down that we may have light; he joy;
love;
came down that we may have light; joy; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service.

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down (*Light*)

HE CAME DOWN

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down (*Joy*)

HE CAME DOWN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM

Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Daniel Albury

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Garrett Maner, guest organist
The Sanctuary Choir

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelmann

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THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Curtis Allen, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Jeff Kirk, Church Custodian

OFFICER ORIENTATION

Officer Orientation will be held on Sunday, January 11th immediately following worship in the Dining Room. Lunch will be provided so please RSVP by Wednesday, January 7th to Diana at diana@firstpresby.com or call the office at (304) 343.8961. Ordination and Installation will also be on January 11th during the worship service.

LOGOS...OR IS IT?

Changes are coming to the Wednesday night program, including a name change. In January, LOGOS becomes LIFT – Living in Faith Together. LIFT starts January 14th; join us for dinner at 5:45. Everyone is welcome to join us for a free dinner and a time of fellowship. More information coming soon!

NUMBERED OFFERING ENVELOPES

2026 Numbered offering envelopes will be available in the main hallway at the table near the church office beginning this Sunday, December 28th.

PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Shady Spring and Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church in Barboursville.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, January 4

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

Monday, January 5

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, January 6

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, January 7

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
3:00pm	Church Office Closes	

Thursday, January 8

Friday, January 9	8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, January 10

Sunday, January 11	10:30am	Worship -Ordination/Installation	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
	11:30pm	Officer Orientation	<i>Dining Room</i>

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, December 28 Luke 2:22-40

Monday, December 29 John 2:1-11

Tuesday, December 30 John 4:46-54

Wednesday, December 31 John 5:1-15

Thursday, January 1 Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, January 2 John 6:1-14

Saturday, January 3 John 6:15-27



