Second Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible: Page 2

The Word of God for the People of God Thanks be to God.

Sermon The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 151 Kings Of Orient
"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) 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.

Call to Stewardship

All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory Arr. Bob Walters "We Three Kings"

*Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Gluten-free bread is in small cups on each tray.)

Communion Voluntary Charles Callahan "Polish Carol"

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 152 Puer Nobis Nascitur

"What Star is This with Beams So Bright"

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

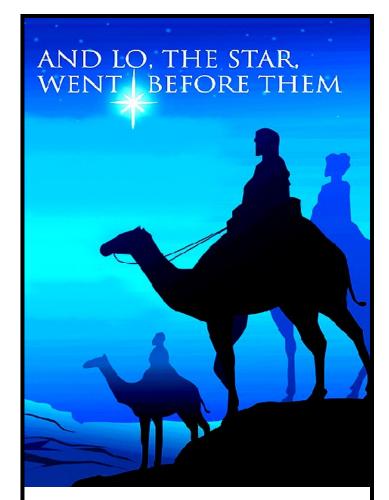
*Closing Congregational Response 136 Refrain Go Tell It
Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

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

*Closing Voluntary Johann Pachelbel "Toccata in E Minor"



Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1





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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

January 5, 2020

10:40 A.M.

Celebration of Epiphany

*The congregation is invited to stand as music begins. Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. (Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshiping near you.)

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary Helmut Walcha "In Bethlehem's Stable"

Entrance of Baptismal Water, The Christ Light, and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 147

The First Nowell

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Moment

Children's Worship

Children up through 5th grade may leave the Sanctuary at this time. Following worship, parents should pick up their child in room 6.

Proclaiming the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible: Page 690

The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God.**

Music Ministry

Grusin/Stevens Arr. Rusty Crownover "Who Comes This Night?"

Who comes this night, this wintry night, as to the lowly manger?

The shepherds and the kings did come,
to welcome in the stranger.

Who sends this song upon the air, to ease the soul that's aching? To still the cry of deep despair, and heal the heart that's breaking.

Brother Joseph, bring the light...fast, the night is fading.

And who will come this wintry night
to where the stranger's waiting?

Who comes this night, with humble heart, to give the fullest measure? A gift of purest love to bring, what good and worthy treasure.

Brother Joseph, bring the Lamb, for they are asking for Him.

The children come this starry night
to lay their hearts before Him.

For those who would the stranger greet must lay their heart before Him, And raise their song in voices sweet, to worship and adore Him.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ.

"The First Nowell"

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsive)

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in Him.

*Congregational Response Hymn 119 v.1

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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