

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 3, 2021
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

What Star Is This

A. Lovelace / R. Lau

WELCOME

The writer of Psalm 118 has written:
"This is the day that the Lord has made.
"Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

HYMN NO. 147 (st. 2,3,4,5)

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

**Shepherds looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

REFRAIN **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.** REFRAIN

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.** REFRAIN

**Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.** REFRAIN

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*Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.*

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Let us pray . . . **With both our voices and every part of each one's life, O God, we honor and glorify your holy name! We also acknowledge and realize our failings and unworthiness before you. In these moments of silence, we approach your throne of grace seeking your forgiveness, where we have strayed from your guidance and fallen short of your desires for our well-being. . .** *(pausing in silence for prayer)*

Make us whole in your love, Blessed One. Open our awareness to your presence multiple times each day. As the first page of the new year's calendar is opened, anoint us again with the ointment of your unending faithfulness and sacred kindness. Bring your new life among us for serving you continually in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ . . .

Friends, let us hear and share with gladness the blessed news of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 606                      Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow                      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.**

SCRIPTURE READING                                              Matthew 1:1-16

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION                                              Sacred Venturing Forth – 2 (The Magi Story Version)

HYMN NO. 144                                              In the Bleak Midwinter                                              CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, CONSECRATION, INTERCESSION,  
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal God, Receive our thanksgiving for all that you have given to this world, both across the ages and in our lifetimes. Through faith communities and among your people, multiply the offerings of our lives with a witness to your love, close by and around the globe. God of mercy, as your love and power prevail through adversity and mend brokenness following the most threatening of situations, continue to go before us, beside us, and behind us, abiding steadfastly, that we and all others might receive your life in abundance and behold your realm and providence, even amid successive hardships. Now, from this table of communion – with your people everywhere, nourish us and give us drink through these elements of field and vine. Grow within us and strengthen us by the spirit of Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected, our host and our mentor always, God-with-us today and forever.

And hear us praying once more, as Jesus taught the community of faith to believe and give voice:

**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: THE BREAKING, THE POURING, THE SHARING IN PARTAKING

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING



HYMN NO. 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.**

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the narthex.  
Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

**NEW MEMBERS** may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder. You may also call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote ([tfoote@fpcbryan.org](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin ([ebeghin@fpcbryan.org](mailto:ebeghin@fpcbryan.org)). They will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Worship related activity sheets and markers are available on the tables in the Narthex. Room 108 is available for your nursery needs. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker.



## A WARM WELCOME!

*We are delighted that you chose  
to worship with us today.*

### WORSHIP NOTES

#### PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

#### LITURGISTS

Rev. George Klett  
Rev. Michael Kennedy  
Clarissa Kennedy

#### MUSICIANS

Kathrine MacNeil, *organ*  
David Kipp,  
*Director of Music Ministries*

### AUDIO-VISUAL | SOUND

Nicole McKinley; Jerry Norris;  
Bill Watson

#### COVER ART

"The Three Wisemen  
Bowling with Gifts in Hand" (2012)  
by Penny Pausch

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### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

##### "STOCK THE PANTRY" SUNDAY

9:00am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom  
9:20am Seekers Church School Class-Parlor/via Zoom  
**10:45am Sanctuary** \* open for prayer, meditation, and Lord's Supper;  
WORSHIP pre-recorded, viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), with click on  
homepage "sentence about worship" or small red YouTube box in far  
top right of homepage screen

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

2:00pm Circle III-P

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

10:15am Staff Meeting-L

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

6:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast-FH

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

#### BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

9:00am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom  
9:20am Seekers Church School Class-Parlor/via Zoom  
**10:45am Sanctuary** \* open for prayer, meditation, and Lord's Supper;  
WORSHIP pre-recorded, viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), with click on  
homepage "sentence about worship" or small red YouTube box in far  
top right of homepage screen

\* *During COVID-19, Room 108 is available for your nursery needs*

## What's the buzz?



*First Presbyterian Youth invite you to join in their mission project benefitting Heifer International. Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty by supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners.*

**Here's how you can participate...** Jars of honey, donated by registered beekeeper Carolyn Lowry, are available for you to purchase, with 100% of the proceeds being forwarded from FPC-Bryan to Heifer International. Church members have invested time to “dress” the jars with decorative fabric. Ms. Lowry is a Bryan ISD faculty member at Rudder High School. She has family friendship ties to long-time FPC member Mary Alice Hall, whose favorite non-Presbyterian mission endeavor was Heifer International. And . . . Ms. Lowry's beekeeping efforts began with bees from the Hall family ranch at Kurten. **The jars of honey and prices are available on a table in the narthex.**

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Men gather for breakfast at 6:30am on Thursday, January 7, for fellowship and great food... a great way to get your day going. RSVP to Allyn Jordan, [allyn@jordanhome.net](mailto:allyn@jordanhome.net).

### NOMINATE A “VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR”

Volunteers are essential to the ministry of FPC-Bryan. They contribute countless hours to the work of this congregation in so many ways—serving on Session/Foundation, leading/coordinating Church School, ushering, singing in the choir, ringing bells, answering telephones, supporting worship, and so more! Each year, the Volunteer of the Year is usually honored for his/her contributions to the church at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Know of an individual who has served the church well in 2020? Submit your nomination with a brief narrative supporting your nomination to Karen Berg, [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org), or mail to First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Carter Creek Pkwy, Bryan, 77802, by Sunday, January 10.

**Submit your nomination today!**

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**Visit us on the web!** [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, updates, etc.

**Check us out on Facebook** [www.facebook.com/FPCBryan](http://www.facebook.com/FPCBryan)

**NEW!!! on Instagram** [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) Search for and follow **fpcbryantx1867** and/or **fpcbryan\_youth**

**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW** when **WORSHIP** and **ACTIVITY** videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel!

Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

**Share prayer needs and church group news with fellow FPC participants on Church Updates!**

is FPC-Bryan's online tool for YOU to post church-related announcements, ways to serve, and your current prayer needs. While users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts, this online tool is “REAL TIME.”

Contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org) to set up your account.

Then, login at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login> to create your password-protected account.

The deadline for our first newsletter of 2021 is Noon today. and will be distributed on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. This newsletter will cover news from January 14-27.

## Sacred Venturing Forth – 2 The Magi Story Version

Matthew 2:1-16  
Ted V. Foote, Jr.

January 03, 2021  
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gifts the Magi bore across many miles of open landscape, plateaus, valleys, and plains. We begin with “their gifts,” substantial in monetary value.

Christina Rossetti, in England, early 1872, wrote a poem which we know as “In the Bleak Midwinter.” Four of the five stanzas appear as hymn # 144. The key perspective is similar to the general interpretation of the story in Matthew’s Gospel account: The Magi bring gifts to the infant Christ-child, born embodying the grace and mercy of God to all the earth. The Magi bring gifts, and Christina Rossetti imagines that each of us has a gift to bring, even if the gift seems more modest than the gold, frankincense, and myrrh brought by the Magi. Each of us can bring the gift of ourselves to honor God’s gift of the child, Jesus. And the gift of self is a total gift!

“In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain, heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed: The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ. Angels and Archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but only His Mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the Beloved with a kiss. What can I give Him, poor as I am? — If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Magi, I would do my part, — yet what I can I give Him? Give my heart.”

(1) There were “their gifts” – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (2) There is The Gift, the birthed life of Jesus. (3) Then there are the gifts God brings into the world through every person. This is the Spirit of Christ (who is “The Gift”), yes, through the Magi, AND through you, through me, through innumerable others – whether we made the destination trip to show up in Bethlehem, or never made it there. In 1895, Henry Van Dyke authored “The Other Wise Man,” a story in which a group of four originally plan the star-led journey from Persia to Judah, but one of the four was delayed and missed their initial rendezvous. The other three felt the need to depart before he could arrive. He tried and tried, as he made his way to Judah. He missed them at every turn, including when the three returned to their homeland without passing back through Jerusalem, defying King Herod’s request. Still searching for the family, the fourth Magi followed the young family’s fleeing to Egypt, but he never caught up with Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. In Dr. Van Dyke’s story, the Fourth Magi dispenses three gifts he began carrying – a sapphire, a ruby, and a pearl – dispenses them in three different locations, at three different times: the sapphire for supplies to make the journey; the ruby to save the life of a mother and child, and the pearl to ransom a slave. Over the years, he served and spent, while seeking this Jesus. He sought The Gift from God given to the world; and he served others of God’s people with the several gifts he had been given in life. What greater calling is there for any of us, whether we have jewels as expendable currency or not? (1) There is The Gift whom God gives. (2) There are the Magi’s gifts brought to The Gift whom God gives. (3) There are the gifts of people in service among others of God’s people: gifts given from and related to the way and spirit of The Gift.

Then there is this matter of “returning home by another way” ... Not the way of your own choosing, or of mine; not the way culture, or domineering rulers, or family or friends manipulate you to go. Attempt to travel the way or ways in which God guides you and me. It will always be a way, like Dr. Van Dyke’s Fourth Magi experienced, which opens before you – with possibilities to negotiate, sacrifice, and participate modeled from the way and spirit of the Servant-Savior, God’s own/ The Gift for all the world! – All honor and praise be to God.