

# Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 8:30am, Epiphany Sunday

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**Many: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**  
One: The mystery of the ages is revealed;  
the eternal plan of God is known to all.  
**Many: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**  
One: Let us kneel down before him to give him  
honor, glory, and praise.  
**Many: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**  
One: Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.  
**Many: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**  
All: Let us worship God!

†HYMN 744

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. You sent Jesus among us to bid us be a light for others. Yet, too often, we hide our lamps, dimming the brightness of your Love. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory, that shines for us in the face of Jesus Christ.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†OUR RESPONSE 581

"Glory Be to the Father"

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.

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymntune: FESTAL SONG

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades.

Many: **By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love;**

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

## SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 2:1-12

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Please follow along with the reading on page 690 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 2 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

## SERMON

“Star Catchers”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“[The Magi] left for their own country by another road.” – Matthew 2:12*

## MEDITATION

“Who Would Imagine a King?”

Warren

Beth Lackey, Soloist

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads to let us know of your presence with us.*

*(Deacons Offering)*

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

You are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This offering goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. Those quarters (and dollars) really add up to help those in need!

## INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

People: **We give thanks for God’s work of creation, liberation, and salvation.**

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name..



“Holy, Holy” Land of Rest,  
Words and Music: Richard  
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*A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.*

Leader: Why do we eat bread at this Table?

People: On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

People: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: What do we remember at this Table?

People: We remember God’s gracious love for us, Christ’s death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit’s tender care for us.

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.*

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.

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*All persons are invited to come forward and partake first of the bread, and then the cup in order to be strengthened by Christ's presence and power in the sacrament. All the communion wafers are gluten-free.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 151                      "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

## †BENEDICTION

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

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Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

The chancel flowers today are given by Kathy and Bruce Nyberg in loving memory of Kathy's mother Mary MacKenzie. A long-time member of this church, she was the beloved grandmother of Eric Nyberg and Elizabeth Gumbis and great-grandmother of Ian, Charlie, and James Nyberg and of Mary, Katherine, and Emma Gumbis.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



## Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code) or go to [www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org).



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Hymntune: KINGS OF  
ORIENT

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.