



*Worshiping, serving, and living with a fresh vision of
God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP
A Celebration of Epiphany // January 4, 2026 // 10am

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER:

Inhale: In this fragile, imperfect world,
Exhale: may your promises take root.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

One: The God of life be with you.
All: **And also with you!**

GATHERING SONG #744 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In the dark of morning,
All: **the stars still shine.**
One: In the depth of winter,
All: **the birds still soar.**
One: At the start of the year,
tender and new,
All: **God is here.**
God is near.
One: Do not rest in your fear.
God is here.
So like the stars and the birds,
All: **Let us worship holy God!**

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so. —

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Ever-loving God,
we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy.
However, we know that is not how the
world works.

Even just days after Christmas,
we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.
So today we pray—

All: **forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.**
forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.
forgive us when fear is louder than love.
Show us how to turn our fear into action.
Show us how to live like the magi
who searched for you in a fearful world.
With hope we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Family of Faith,
whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,
God's love for you knows no end.
So join me in these words of forgiveness:

All: **Whether fear inspires us to action,**
or stops us dead in our tracks,
God's love for us is boundless.
We are seen.
We are surrounded with grace.
We are sent to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Mary Had a Baby

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

As We Journey

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

*HYMN #151 *We Three Kings*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

LIFE AT FIRST

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #606

All: Praise God whose image we all bear.
Praise Christ whose mercy we all share.
Praise Spirit making justice grow.
One God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Radiant God,
the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you,
guiding us not with force, but with grace.
Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor,
but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us.
Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places,
so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy.
Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing,
and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN *As with Gladness Those of Old* (Printed in the bulletin)

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Blessing

Susan and Lee Dengler

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis,
Alana Cocanour, FPC Choir, Rose Gifford

Thanks to: Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kiki Lemen and Nursery Care Providers

Today's liturgy was created by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Our worshiping community extends beyond our sanctuary.
Let us hold in our prayers the following members:

Ellen Cuthbertson – Grand Pines Assisted Living
Lenore & Gordon DePree – Farmstead Assisted Living
Dean Effken – Riley's Grove in Zeeland
Bill Evenson - Home
Judy & Jack Faber – Farmstead Assisted Living
Mickey & Neal Harris - Home
JoAnn Karn – MediLodge Zeeland (Rm 301)
Marianne & David McBeth - Home
Jeanine Roberts – Home
Carolyn Russell – Resthaven Maplewoods

Phil Sturdevant – Resthaven Care Center
Mary Ann & Mike Van Houzen - Home
Sue & Don Williams - Freedom Village
Ron Williams – Michigan Veteran's Home,
Grand Rapids

If you know of someone who should be
added to this list, please contact the
church office.

Thank you from Children's Advocacy Center

Thank you to all of those who sponsored a child, carefully choosing & purchasing items from their wishlist, and for those that bought so many wonderful stocking stuffers to stock Cora's Closet. Your generosity was truly appreciated.

Here is the ***Thank You*** from CAC.

"Seeing the hallways throughout our building lined with gifts brings so much warmth and light to the CAC, especially in a season that can often bring layers of extra stress to the families we serve. Thank you for your generous donation that helped bring so much joy to 83 kids this year. We loaded countless bags into cars, stuffed many stockings, and were met with the sweetest hugs, tears and thank-yous. We could not have done this without you! All of us here at the CAC thank you, and we wish you a safe and joyous holiday season with your loved ones." ~ With Gratitude, Charlie Martinez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all who lent their nativities and decorative lanterns to the church for Advent.
If you are able, please take home your items after church today.

No Education Hour Today // Faith formation classes for all ages resume on January 11, including the Confirmation Class, which meets at noon.

Star Words // January 6 is the traditional date for the Epiphany, which we will celebrate today. As the magi followed a star, so you will be invited to receive a “star word.” Maybe your star word will be “explore,” or “imagine” or “empathy.” We encourage you to use this word in prayer, to wonder how your life of faith connects with the word you receive. How might this “star word” encourage you in your life of faith?

Volunteers Needed // We are looking for a few people to help with communion preparation 2 – 3 times a year. This involves arriving early on communion Sundays for preparation of the elements and staying after the service to clean up. The tasks are simple: cubing the gluten free bread and preparing the communion table with the plates of bread & chalices of grape juice. Training is provided. If you are willing to help, please contact Lori Leopard in the office, office@fpcholland.org or 392-9022, or Mary Blackall at maryblackall9@gmail.com or 616-212-5346.

Confirmation Class Meals // Our Confirmation class continues to meet over the next few months on Sunday afternoon from 12-1:30pm. We have three confirmands and their mentors (a group of seven, including Pastor Paul). We’re inviting members of the congregation to provide a meal for the group — either by bringing something from home or picking up takeout. It’s a simple but meaningful way to support our youth and their mentors as they grow in faith together. If you’d like to provide a meal, please sign up at the Outreach Desk.

FPC Talent / Untalent Show // FPC will be hosting a Talent/ Untalent Show on Jan 25 at 3pm. You can perform by yourself, with a friend, or a group. Skits, musical performances, etc. Presentations need to be five minutes or less. Not a performer? Sign up to display a sample of your quilting, painting, woodworking, etc. Sign up sheets are available in the entryway! Please email Cindy Helder with your questions, cindyloubear6@gmail.com or call 616-848-7204.

Charity Sew-In Opportunity // Tuesday, January 20th, 10 am – 3 pm at FPC. Big Red Quilters' Guild (BRQG) of Holland is grateful to First Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to have some storage and meeting space for their Outreach Committee. The BRQG Outreach Committee and BRQG members make quilts to donate to Lakeshore Pregnancy, Hope Packages, Resilience and sometimes others as need arises. The guild members donated 110 quilts January – July of 2025! The BRQG Outreach Committee invites First Presbyterian members who like to sew to their Sew-In event on Tuesday, January 20, from 10-3 downstairs in the fellowship hall. Or just stop in to say, hi and see what it's all about! Fabric and kits will be available to sew; you can make a few blocks or work on a whole quilt. Bring your own machine and sewing basics if you want to sew.

Other opportunities include: ironing blocks and cutting fabrics for kits. Irons and ironing boards will be available. Bring your cutting mat and rotary cutter if you want to help cut fabric. If you have any questions, contact Janet Haines, 989-400-2998 or janethaines24@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat // The Women's Retreat is coming up on February 28th, 2026. The event is from 9am - 4pm. Come and join the fun and celebration of, *Show and Tell; How we can learn skills of listening and seeing God in our lives*. Rev. Barb Schreur will be our speaker. Brochure (with registration form) will be available on the FPC website home page Monday, January 5 and at the church after January 7. *We hope to see you there*. It's an event you won't want to miss.

Justice Reads: A New FPC Book Group //

For: Everyone

Time & Date: 7:00 pm, February 26th

First Read: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Isabel Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity. For more information, contact Jan Brashler or Cathy Hoop.

Discovering The Health Benefits of Taiji (Tai chi) //

9 Week Taiji Class Series

When: Begins Tuesday January 20 from 5:30pm-6:30pm

Where: First Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$135.00 includes access to free online practice and lesson videos

Taiji is a natural exercise to do and is one of the most effective workouts today to enhance mobility as it brings relaxation. Taiji is an uplifting form of exercise for the Body & Mind promoting overall health & well-being. Known as an internal martial art, it is often called "meditation in motion". It has evolved over the years into an effective way to relieve stress and anxiety because it promotes relaxation and is well known for improving balance.

It is an Exercise for Every Age. This exciting class series is perfect for beginners and those who wish to go deeper into their practice.

Teacher Chris Campbell, M.T.J.E.T , shares his expertise & energy of 39 plus years experience studying & sharing the healing arts of Taiji, qigong and meditation.



Feel free to contact Chris with any questions, chris@timefortaiji.com
– OR– Scan the QR Code

As with Gladness Those of Old

159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

Matt. 2:1-12



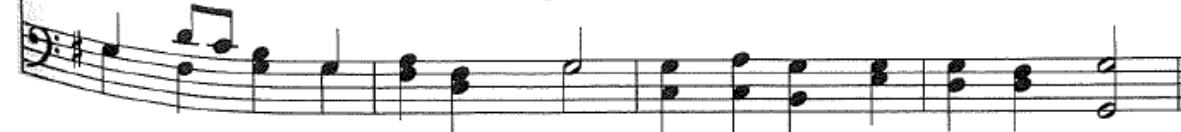
1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



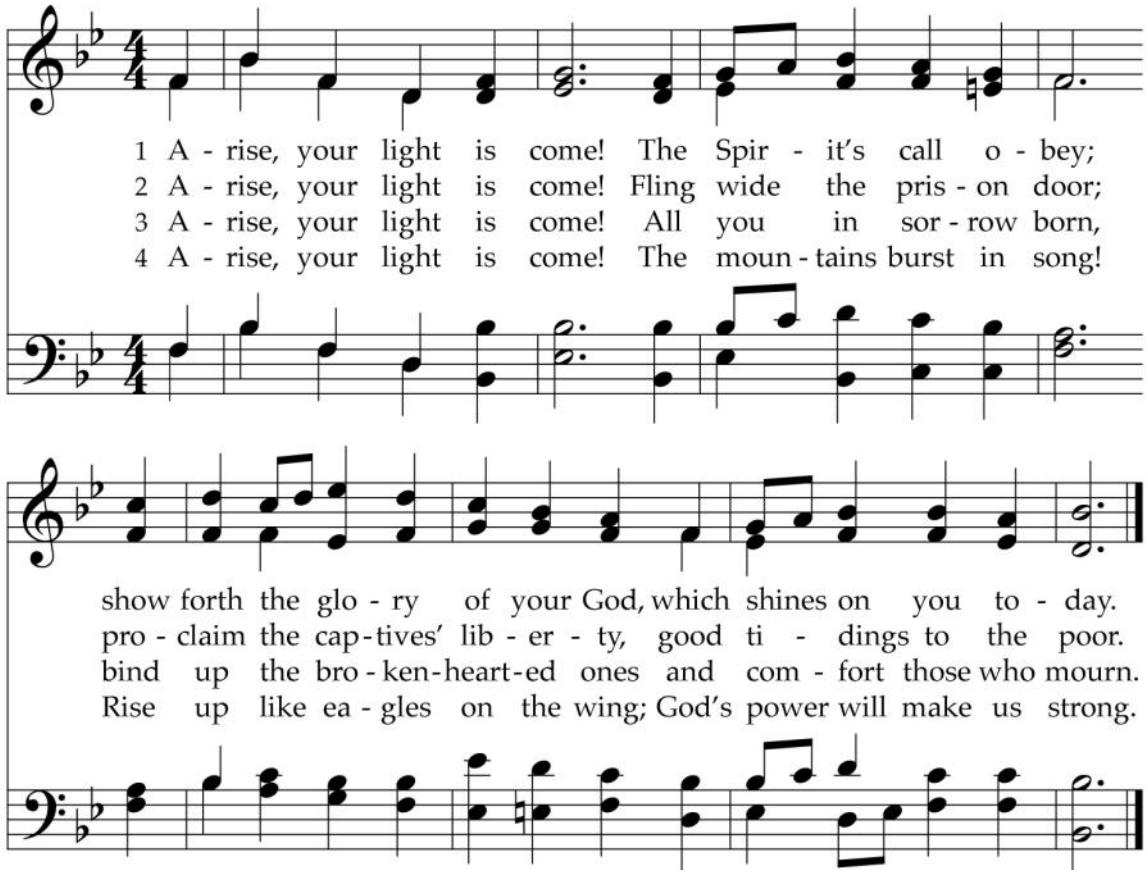
As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen-dor see.
 So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
 All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.



744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap-tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974

MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG

SM

(this tune in a lower key, 815)

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)

D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful-filled what God de-creed, "From
 3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an
 4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)

D A D G D A

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro-ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con-veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)

Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an-nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)

A D A D G A D

ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light. use.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank-in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Cathy@fpcholland.org
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Sue Stock	Communications	Sue@fpcholland.org

DEACONS:

Class of 2026: Tom Glover, Terri Schamper

Class of 2027: Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder,
Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar

Class of 2028: Cathy Colten, Gail Hering,
Fred Mc Conkey

ELDERS:

Class of 2026: Carleen Bauer, Bill Evenson
Cassie Kregger, Bruce Rosensteel, Tim Staal

Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley

Class of 2028: Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer,
Chris Urbaniak

Children's Programming During Worship:

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship. If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org