

### GATHERING

*God of this new morning, you have awakened me to the brightness of your dawn. I begin this day in gratitude, recalling your mercies through the night, anticipating glimpses of your glory in the hours ahead. Make my face shine today with the joy of your grace, so that another is helped to see your presence and find hope. In Jesus' name I pray.  
Amen.*

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

##### PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

D. Buxtehude

##### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

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.**

##### \* HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

##### CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**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. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.**

##### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

##### \* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

*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.*

### THE WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

##### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5a (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 865

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM (11 A.M.)**

**Three Kings**  
*Campbell Graze, tenor*

**M. Bedford**

*Three kings came on camelback, three kings came riding, on a journey far from home, in God's love abiding.  
Bringing precious gifts with them, they came from afar, led across the desert bare by a shining star. Just as they  
brought peace and light to the baby boy, let us bring our hearts to him, filled with love and joy.*

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)**

**Sarah Whitfield**

*(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**NT pg. 2**

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**The Epiphany, the Visit of the Wise Men**

**Rev. Mark Hults**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **RESPONDING**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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; on 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

**French folk melody**

**arr. H. Barrie Cabena**

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled, Great Spirit, Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead. Before their light the stars grew dim and wandering hunters heard the hymn: Jesus your king is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria. Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found. A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round. But as the hunters brave drew nigh the angel song rang loud and high.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there. The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. O children of the forest free, the angel song is true: the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you. Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.*

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**Hymn 606**

*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.*

**\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE  
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
PRAYER

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

- \* **HYMN 151** We Three Kings of Orient Are KINGS OF ORIENT
- \* **BENEDICTION**
- \* **POSTLUDE** We Three Kings J. Linker

**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Susannah Peddie, Sarah Whitfield

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Susannah Peddie

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST:** Mitch Rorick

**COLLABORATIVE PIANIST:** Anait Piloyan

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**8:30 A.M. USHER:** Rose Anna Rutledge; **11 A.M. USHERS:** Paul Bennett, Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Mary Lou Schubert, Carol Turner

**A/V TEAM:** Frank Counts, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Jelvi Fika

**THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Howard Patton by Emily Patton.

**THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florence and Armin Wagner by Eric A. Wagner

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE EPIPHANY.** Epiphany means "manifestation" and celebrates the revelation of Christ to the world. While the actual feast day is January 6, the end of the 12 days of Christmas, we are celebrating it this Sunday, January 11 since January 6 is a Tuesday. In addition, we are celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord today through the taking of the bread and wine at communion.

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**Thank you for joining us in worship today.** We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Mark Hults - [pastor@1stpc.org](mailto:pastor@1stpc.org)

**Director of Music and Organist**

Mitch Rorick - [music@1stpc.org](mailto:music@1stpc.org)

**Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry**

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**Director of College Ministry**

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**Preschool Director**

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**Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill**

**Sexton - Margaret Hill**

**Property Coordinator**

John Rayl - [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto:png.1stpc@gmail.com)

## 147

## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.  
 MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5a (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

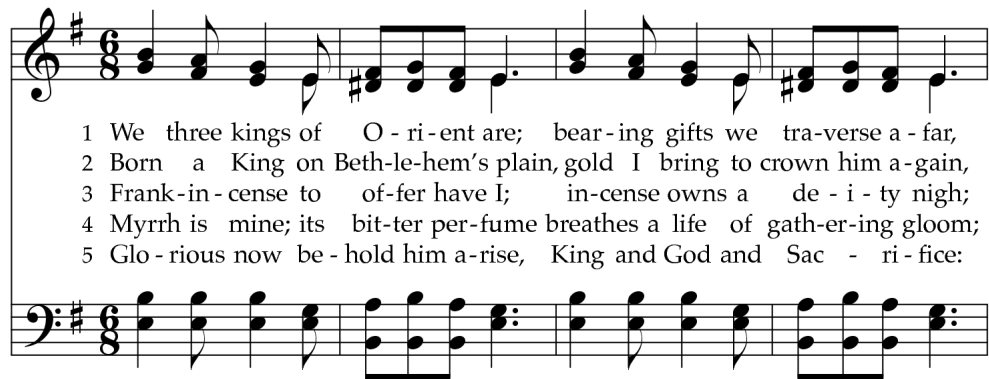
<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



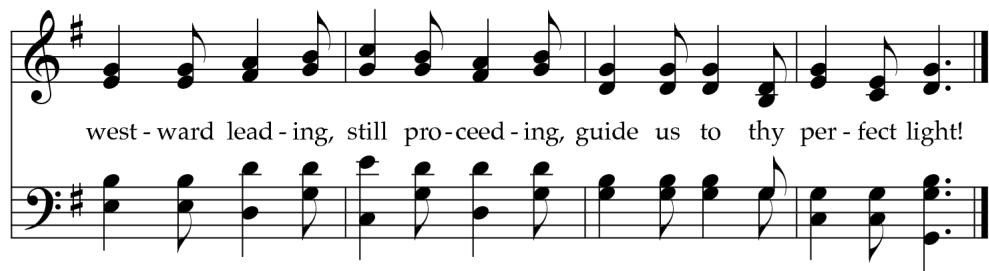
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life 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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.



### With Gratitude

Thank you to the faithful volunteers who came to help take the Christmas decorations down last week. We appreciate your time and your service to the congregation!



### Doctor Koinonia

Doctor Koinonia, our ministry support group for young faculty physicians, will resume meeting this month in the church library, on Thursday, January 15 at 5:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Don McGarity, who will share based on his decades of experience in dealing with patients and families in the midst of palliative care. For more information, please contact Serendipity at [DoctorKoinonia@gmail.com](mailto:DoctorKoinonia@gmail.com).



### Ocean Voyage Immersive Concert III

Join us on Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m. for a spectacular concert that plunges into the deepest, wildest corners of the sea. In addition to stunning visuals, this concert features Dance Alive National Ballet, the Gainesville Youth Chorus, our very own Chancel Choir, and guest musicians. From playful waves to treacherous storms and hidden treasures, this performance is a musical voyage guaranteed to leave you breathless!



### Attention guitar players - current and aspiring!

Ross Teigen is offering a 5-week course in beginning guitar for all interested, regardless of age. This course starts Sunday, January 25 following the 11 a.m. worship. Bring your own guitar, or let us know and we can likely supply a guitar. For more information, contact Ross ([teigenguitars@gmail.com](mailto:teigenguitars@gmail.com)) or Mitch Rorick.



### Cooks Needed Sundays

College Café opens its doors each Sunday during the school year to provide a lunch to our college students following 11 a.m. worship. Join us for lunch just across Gordon Hall. We are looking for individuals or teams to provide meals for College Café. If you are interested, please contact Jonathon Haney at [college@1stpc.org](mailto:college@1stpc.org).



### Join us in the New Year as Ministries resume this month:

- \*Sunday, January 11 - Chancel Choir, Kids-4-God, and College Café
  - \*Tuesday, January 13 - College Trajectory
  - \*Wednesday, January 14 - LOGOS and Jubilate Ringers
  - \*Thursday, January 15 - Carol Ringers and regular Chancel Choir rehearsal
  - \*Bibles Studies run year round for Young Adults, Women's Groups, and Men's Groups.
- Contact Fred Lundy or call the office for more details.

*Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers or click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.*


## Online Contributions



Visit our website, [www.1stpc.org](http://www.1stpc.org), to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at [1stpc.org](http://1stpc.org)



## Ministries & Staff

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

### Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - [preschool@1stpc.org](mailto:preschool@1stpc.org)

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Nursery Care** during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. **Contact:** Victoria Bernard - [toraleighb@gmail.com](mailto:toraleighb@gmail.com)

Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith on Sundays during the school year. **Contact:** Evelyn Lewis - [citytr122@gmail.com](mailto:citytr122@gmail.com)

**LOGOS** is a mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. **Contact:** Bev Vloedman [dvloedman@aol.com](mailto:dvloedman@aol.com)

**Youth Connection** meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12. (see **YA&FM** contact)

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study at 7 p.m. Bring a friend!

### Director of College Ministry

JONATHAN HANEY - [college@1stpc.org](mailto:college@1stpc.org)

**Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM)** is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

### Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - [youngadult@1stpc.org](mailto:youngadult@1stpc.org)

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

### Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - [music@1stpc.org](mailto:music@1stpc.org)

## Additional Staff

### Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - [pastor@1stpc.org](mailto:pastor@1stpc.org)

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### Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto:png.1stpc@gmail.com)

### Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

### Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God  
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ  
Meet Human Needs



**First Presbyterian**  
Church of Gainesville

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, January 11, 2026

### Epiphany Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover Class: Mark 10 - Serendipity R. - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Matthew 2:1-12 - Rose Anna R. - Rm 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Room 204
- 12:00 p.m. Epiphany Celebration & Fellowship - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Café

### Monday, January 12, 2026

- 6:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee

### Tuesday, January 13, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Property Committee - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall

### Wednesday, January 14, 2026

- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Time Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Bell Room 215

### Thursday, January 15, 2026

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Bell Room 215
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### Friday, January 16, 2026

- 5:45 p.m. Rehearsals Begin
- 7:00 p.m. Ocean Voyage Immersive Concert III - Sanctuary

### Saturday, January 17, 2026

### Sunday, January 18, 2026

### Encouragement Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover Class: Mark 11 - Stephanie Tyler - Lib
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: John 1:1-14 - Dan Sutton - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Room 204
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Café - Serving Room