

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The heavens proclaim a birth in Bethlehem. Following a star, three Magi journey to see what has occurred. They carry with them gifts appropriate for a ruler: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Upon arrival at the scene, they observe a mother and child, God’s heavenly glory on earth to bring light to the nations. Proclaiming God’s praise, they fall down and worship. The radiance of God’s love evokes wonder and awe.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and exchange the greeting of peace.

* GATHERING MUSIC #41 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather wondering, ‘Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?’

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, ‘Where will we find the Child of Christmas?’

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, ‘Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?’

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

WE PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

* HYMN OF PRAISE #68 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

We have heard of your grace, Shaper of stars; from those set free from injustice; from our children who whisper of your joy; from greeters of dawn's fresh start; from late risers who listen to the stories of the needy.

We have heard of your Light, Bright Star of the morning: which can illumine the shadows of our lives; which can show the path to God's heart; which can point the way to where we become servants of the gospel.

We have heard of your promised peace, Wisdom's Radiance: that peace which can end war, as well as heal our hearts; that peace which can conquer our fears, and flood us with faith; that peace which can enter our lives and overwhelm us with hope.

We have heard of you, God in Community, Holy in One, and will proclaim your glory to all.

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts; love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE On This Day Earth Shall Ring

PERSONENT HODIE

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing

To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;

Him the Father gave us. I – de – o – o – o, I – de – o – o – o,

I – de – o Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY (WITH ALLELUIAS)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

GOOD SOIL

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

Where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away,

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

THE WORD SPOKEN

In the beginning was the Word

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A Reading from Ephesians 3:1-12

PEW BIBLE, NT, PAGE 15

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us;

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

ANTHEM *Three Kings Came Riding*

SANS DAY CAR

THE WORD SPOKEN

A Reading from Matthew 2:1-12

PEW BIBLE, NT, PAGE

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us;

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: ADORATION OF THE MAGI

REV. JOHNS

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #63 As With Gladness Men of Old

D

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord’s table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing our praise to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos . . . Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN

WELCOME to Faith Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have an interest in joining Faith Presbyterian, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.292.5704. Please visit our website at www.faithpresgso.org or Facebook at www.facebook.com/faithpresgso.

Elders of the Month for January are Lindsey Brown and Sandy Jones

Worship leader for this morning is Lindsey Brown.

On the calendar for this week:

- **Theology on Tap** will resume this week, meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 at Elizabeth's Pizza, continuing our book study of *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian McLaren.
- **Adult Sunday School.** Join us each Sunday morning at one of our two adult classes. The **Discussion Class** meets at 9:30 in the parlor for engaging conversation and discussion as we consider the text and sermon topic for the morning and look **Before the Sermon.** Also, you may want to attend our newest class, **The Present Word**, which meets in the library. Using our denomination's curriculum, this class considers scripture and its interpretation for today.

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to immediately follow worship on **next Sunday, January 13th** for these purposes: to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Faith and Rev. Johnson; to act on the Session's recommendation to reduce the size of the Session from nine to six; and to elect as Elders for the Class of 2015, Betsy Rule and Betty Rissmiller.

The congregation is invited to a **Farewell Brunch** for John and Debbie Johnson, to be held following worship and the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 13, 2013.**

Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns! All creation renders tributes of praise to you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior . . . So, as we remember his birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

Christ came, the morning star of love;

Christ died, the night star of salvation;

Christ arose, the radiant star of resurrection;

Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.

Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, . . . And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One, now and forever, and we pray with one 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

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

As you come forward to receive communion, you may bring your donations to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. In the name of Christ our living Lord, Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #66** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

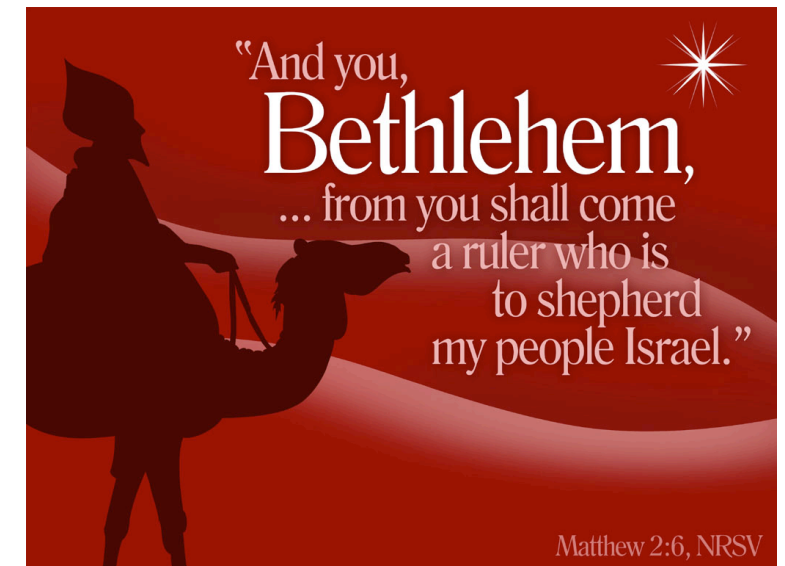
* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *May the Peace of God*

LARSON

* **POSTLUDE**

** You are invited to stand if you are able*

John W. Johnson, B.M.E., M.A., M. Div., Pastor
James M. Rissmiller, B.A., B.D., Th.M., Parish Associate
Jeremy Corn, Music Director
Lois Bazhaw, RN, Congregational Nurse
Lynn Beard, Office Administrator



Faith
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We are a loving faith family,
worshipping and serving God,
and testifying in word and deed
as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

January 6, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Da
Epiphany of the Lor

www.faithpresgso.org ♦ www.facebook.com/faithpresgso ♦ [Twitter @faithpresgso](https://twitter.com/faithpresgso)
6309 W. Friendly Ave. ♦ Greensboro, North Carolina 27410 ♦ 336.292.5704

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Statistics for December 30, 2012: Attendance—50

January – Canned Meats

January 6-13, 2013

Today: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Healthcare Ministry

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 9:30 a.m. Parish Nurse
 10:00 a.m. Chair Exercise

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Congregational Meeting and Farewell Brunch For John and Debbie Johnson
 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Prayer Lists

Bixby Church, Advance
 Chapel in the Pines, Chapel Hill
 Edward Webb Memorial Church, Mt. Airy

Faith Presbyterian Church Prayer List:

Peggy Pope	Cile Gorman	Gauge Humphrey
Dot Patat	Jo Anne Jennings	Caitlyn Watkins
Bob and Ann Huffine	Larry Murren	Fran Cuthbertson
Virginia Cornet	Erich Bordne	Pat Magnuson
Family of Betsy Waugh	Maxine Heath	Family of Bonnie Evans
Doreen Jones	Ann Collins (former member)	
Bonnie Evans	Georgia Renfrow	
Pamela Klutz (daughter of Bonnie Evans)	Helen Hall's daughter	
Kelly Bottoms (friend/Lindsey Brown)	Isabel Payne	
Mary Jane & Bob Phillips	Family of Joe Brooks	
	Rebecca Elliott's grandmother	

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Statistics for December 30, 2012: Attendance—50

January – Canned Meats

January 6-13, 2013

Today: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Healthcare Ministry

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 9:30 a.m. Parish Nurse
 10:00 a.m. Chair Exercise

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Congregational Meeting and Farewell Brunch For John and Debbie Johnson
 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Prayer Lists

Bixby Church, Advance
 Chapel in the Pines, Chapel Hill
 Edward Webb Memorial Church, Mt. Airy

Faith Presbyterian Church Prayer List:

Peggy Pope	Cile Gorman	Gauge Humphrey
Dot Patat	Jo Anne Jennings	Caitlyn Watkins
Bob and Ann Huffine	Larry Murren	Fran Cuthbertson
Virginia Cornet	Erich Bordne	Pat Magnuson
Family of Betsy Waugh	Maxine Heath	Family of Bonnie Evans
Doreen Jones	Ann Collins (former member)	
Bonnie Evans	Georgia Renfrow	
Pamela Klutz (daughter of Bonnie Evans)	Helen Hall's daughter	
Kelly Bottoms (friend/Lindsey Brown)	Isabel Payne	
Mary Jane & Bob Phillips	Family of Joe Brooks	
	Rebecca Elliott's grandmother	

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Statistics for December 30, 2012: Attendance—50

January – Canned Meats

January 6-13, 2013

Today: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Healthcare Ministry

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 9:30 a.m. Parish Nurse
 10:00 a.m. Chair Exercise

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee
 11:00 a.m. Worship and Congregational Meeting and Farewell Brunch For John and Debbie Johnson
 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Prayer Lists

Bixby Church, Advance
 Chapel in the Pines, Chapel Hill
 Edward Webb Memorial Church, Mt. Airy

Faith Presbyterian Church Prayer List:

Peggy Pope	Cile Gorman	Gauge Humphrey
Dot Patat	Jo Anne Jennings	Caitlyn Watkins
Bob and Ann Huffine	Larry Murren	Fran Cuthbertson
Virginia Cornet	Erich Bordne	Pat Magnuson
Family of Betsy Waugh	Maxine Heath	Family of Bonnie Evans
Doreen Jones	Ann Collins (former member)	
Bonnie Evans	Georgia Renfrow	
Pamela Klutz (daughter of Bonnie Evans)	Helen Hall's daughter	
Kelly Bottoms (friend/Lindsey Brown)	Isabel Payne	
Mary Jane & Bob Phillips	Family of Joe Brooks	
	Rebecca Elliott's grandmother	