

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

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 “Go Tell it On the Mountain”

Go Tell It

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Call to Worship

Leader - We gather wondering, “Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

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

Leader - We gather asking, “where will we find the Child of Christmas?”

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

Leader - We gather wanting to know, “where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”

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

*Hymn of Praise #63 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

Dix

Prayer of Confession

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.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sins from us.

People: As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who trust him.

Leader: Friends, live and believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer Response “In Dulce Jubilio”

Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest for-ever-more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

The Word Spoken

In the beginning was the Word

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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, OT, Page 690

Anthem “Morning Star Still Shines”

by Peter Kidd

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, NT, Page 2

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Word with the Children

The Word Declared: “Star-ward”

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

Hymn of Response #68 “What Star is this, With Beams So Bright” *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Let us pray. 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.

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos. You whispered, and your glory filled the skies. You sang, and the dust of the earth was shaped into your image as you breathed life into us. We could have lived in grace and peace with you for as long as the sun endures, for as long as the moon hangs in the night sky. But we were tempted by the sweet taste of sin, and overwhelmed with temptation’s wealth of cheap gifts and thrills. The prophets were sent to tell of your gifts of joy and peace, but we listened to the world’s news of success, power, and achievement. Finally, in that dark time of despair, you sent Jesus, your servant of salvation.

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:

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. Overwhelmed with compassion, he left the glory of heaven, to become a prisoner of sin, so we could be set free. Overwhelmed with hope, he entered death’s house, to break its dark power forever. Overwhelmed with love, he travelled another road, walking to Calvary, so we might run with joy into your waiting arms.

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 on the gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children. Feed us with the bread of hope, so when we leave, we will travel another road, to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside. Refresh us with the sweet nectar of grace, so we, overwhelmed

with joy, would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten, to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

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. Amen.

Words of Institution

Prayer After the Meal

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. So Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Doxology

We Three Kings

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

***Closing Hymn #26** “Break Forth, Oh Beauteous Heavenly Light” *Ermintrich*

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

*Charge and Benediction “Star Giving”

What I’d really like to give you for Christmas is a star...

Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God’s Advent Light into the darkness of this world.

But stars are only God’s for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.

But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child’s coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood beneath its light.

And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem’s light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

Postlude

** Please rise in body or spirit*

The Benediction is by Ann Weems, [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#), the Westminster Press, 1980.

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the Parlor. This week we are continuing our study of ‘The Work of the People,’ a video based series featuring some of the great theologians and thinkers of our time!

Worship Enrichment for children and youth is coming soon! We encourage our young people to learn about God and our community through the act of worship. These enrichment experiences will allow the children to learn more about the different parts of worship and enable them to participate and understand more. **Please talk to our Pastor Karen if you wish to be involved!** We need worship buddies and mentors to learn alongside our young people!

January Elders of the Month: Bonnie Maready and Betty Rissmiller.

Do you want to know more about the new life happening at Faith?

“Like” us on Facebook! We post pictures, music, questions, pastor’s blogs, and lots of other great stuff on this page!

Sign up for our weekly email update! Give us your email on the friendship pad, or contact faithpresgsonc@gmail.com to get on the list. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Check out our website www.faithpresgso.org – for more information about who we are and what we believe, as well as weekly updates of bulletins and monthly newsletters

Grab a newsletter! You can pick up a current copy of the newsletter on the table in the narthex and can see previous copies on our website.

Join us for our monthly brunch! Every month on the **4th Sunday**, we head down to the fellowship hall after worship for yummy food and good conversation.

Calendar for January 4 - 11

Today:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee and Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship, Communion
Monday:	7:30 P.M.	Theology on Tap
Tuesday:	10:00 A.M.	Chair Exercise
Wednesday:	6:00 P.M.	Choir Practice
Thursday:	8:00 P.M.	Narcotics Anonymous
Friday:	8:00 P.M.	Narcotics Anonymous
Sunday:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee and Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship

SALEM PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Bixby Church, Advance
Chapel in the Pines, Chapel Hill
Christ Presbyterian, High Point

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYER LIST:

Please be in touch with the office regarding any additions or corrections to the Prayer List. You may call (336.292.5150) or e-mail (faithpresgsonc@gmail.com).

Lindsey Brown’s Aunt	Bob Huffine’s Family
Priscilla Christiansen	Marge Mack
Kevin Cook’s Family	Pat Magnuson
Fran Cuthbertson	Andy Moye
Bonnie Evans	Larry Murren
‘Cile Gorman	Garth Payne
Pat Greeson	Georgia Renfrow
Helen Hall	Beth Weikel (Daughter of
Harold Henderson	Jim and Betty Rissmiller)

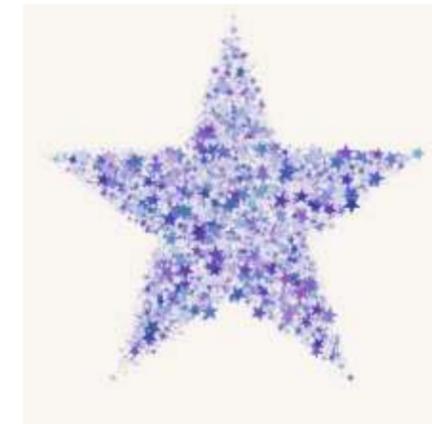
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Theology on Tap** will next meet on Monday, January 5th at 7:30 p.m. the home of Tim and Laura Maher (4208 Shoal Creek Dr). The reading is Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” chapters 30-32. Come even if you haven’t read the book!
- **Theology on Tap** will begin a new text on Monday, February 2nd. The book is the New Revised Edition of Marjorie Thompson’s “Soul Feast.” You are encouraged to buy it now to ensure you have received it in time to participate.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson, Pastor
Rev. Jim Rissmiller, Parish Associate
Stephanie Lindley, Music Director
Beverly Lucas, Office Administrator

WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN



“Star-ward” The Second Sunday After Christmas

We embrace multigenerational worship and welcome the giggles, questions, tears, and even shouts that enliven our oh-so-orderly service. We do have a **professionally staffed nursery** available for babies and toddlers, but we encourage our youngest members to learn with and from us throughout the worship service.

There is a **family worship space** available for children and adults at the front of the sanctuary. **Are you curious about all the fun the kids are having up front?** Feel free to join our young people in their interactive worship activities! These experiences are great for active learners of all ages, and our children and their parents appreciate your engagement and support.

We want to be a true family of faith and that means celebrating the gifts, questions, and talents of each of our members from young in age to young at heart!

January 4th, 2015

11:00 A.M.

Service for the Lord’s Day

2nd Sunday After Christmas

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