

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Service and Message by: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins

****Please rise in body or spirit***

Sunday, January 2, 2022

10:30 A.M.



The Epiphany of Our Lord

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT #110 Love Has Come (vs. 3)

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Elder Ron Stamboly

There is good news of great joy for all!

Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

***LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Rev. Chris Houtz

Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

God of endless light, you sent a star—

rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN #145**

What Child is This?

INVITATION TO CONFESSION**Elder Ron Stamboly**

God judges the nations with righteousness, and answers the poor with justice. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**Elder Ron Stamboly**

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. 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, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of the Lord.

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

PERSONAL CONFESSION**Rev. Chris Houtz**

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**Rev. Chris Houtz**

The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE #113**Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 3 and refrain)****THE PASSING OF THE PEACE****Elder Ron Stamboly**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you. (*Please pass the peace of Christ to one another.*)

CHILDREN'S TIME**Rev. Chris Houtz****ANTHEM****O Come, All Ye Unfaithful** (*Sovereign Grace Music*)

*O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.*

*O come, barren and waiting ones,
weary of praying, come,
see what your God has done.*

*Christ is born, Christ is born,
Chris is born for you.*

*O come, bitter and broken.
Come with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of his perfect love.*

*O come, guilty and hiding ones.
There is no need to run.
See what your God has done.*

*Christ is born, Christ is born,
Christ is born for you.*

*He's the lamb who was given, slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace for those who believe.
He's the lamb who was given, slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace for those who believe.*

*So come, though you have nothing, come, he is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.*

*Christ is born, Christ is born,
Christ is born for you.
Christ is born, Christ is born,
Christ is born for you.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ron Stamboly

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalter Reading (Responsive): Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

² **May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹² **For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

New Testament Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THE MESSAGE

Responding to Revelation

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #147**

The First Nowell

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father;
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,**

**Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
And became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
In accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
And his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son
Is worshiped and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #606**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #497 Bread of Life From Heaven**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;
And he will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

THE GREAT 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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way. In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.

In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

We give you thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake.

When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood Christ?

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

***HYMN #115 Away in a Manger**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION #146 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (vs. 2)**

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders!

Office Closed 12/27 & 1/3/2022 in observance of day after Christmas and New Year's Day.

ChildFund is the Mission Focus for December, 2021.

The Board of Deacons' Ministry of Compassion is asking for donations of whole chickens or turkeys to include in our holiday food baskets. Also needed is canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pasta and canned broth. Please leave all donations in the church kitchen labeled for food pantry. Thank you everyone for your generous donations. Your Ministry of Compassion

Margarita Estrada on vacation until 1/5/22. Back to work 1/6/22. Coverage will be provided.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies Breakfast is Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 9 am.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Regular Activities

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am

Men's Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

Choir practice: 1st and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream
Sundays at 10:30 am

Per Capita Apportionment for 2022 is \$40.00.

Important Dates 2022



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 8th
at 8 am

**CLEF
Ladies Breakfast**
Saturday, January 8th
at 9:00 am



**Congregational
Meeting**
Sunday, January 23, 2022

Our Mission Statement

We are a friendly, multi-cultural congregation that welcomes all to worship with us as we glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; sing praises to God, the Father; and let the Holy Spirit guide our footsteps. As faithful witnesses to our Christian beliefs, we dedicate ourselves to worship, stewardship and discipleship. We will always endeavor to nurture the youth in our congregation to grow in their commitment to God and the Church and to become active participants in the life and work of the Church.

We commit ourselves to evangelism and mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all people in a variety of ways in our community and beyond.

We will continue to be open to God's presence, leading us into new pathways of ministry and service for the betterment of the community and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior.

-ratified by congregational vote, January 27, 2008

Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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