

PRELUDE

WORD OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Rhea

Leader: Turn to God and be saved, all the ends of the earth
All: **Our God is One and there is no other**
Leader: Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess,
All: **Righteousness and peace come only from the LORD!**

***HYMN**

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Hymnal #259 (Verses 1, 3, 5)

Verse 1: Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: *Refrain*

Verse 3: Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*

Verse 5: Though an Infant now we view Him, He will share His Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to Him; Every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain*

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Dan Rhea

Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dan Rhea

Leader: Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and I am number one." Let's pray to God and confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us into a new year! We are so grateful to have a fresh start. Please forgive the ways we have not done what You told us to do, and forgive the ways we have done what You said don't do. Both kinds of sin are completely our fault, we have no one else to blame. Help us to learn Your ways and, give us the grace to live them, for we ask in Jesus' Name, AMEN.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dan Rhea

Leader: Christ died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI**

All: **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. AMEN.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Dan Rhea

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Shelby Wright, Soloist / Holst

(Note: Though this text describes winter in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more personal)

*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Children ages 5 through 8th grade are dismissed at this time for children's worship.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SERMON

"Adding Seats"

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*HYMN

What Child is This?

Hymnal #281

*Verse 1: What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? Refrain*

*Verse 2: Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Refrain*

*Verse 3: So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Refrain*

*Refrain: This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

All: 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; 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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Dan Rhea

Leader: Let us thank God with our offerings.

OFFERTORY

O Mighty Cross

Arr. Fettke

*DOXOLOGY

The Old Hundredth

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*HYMN

We Three Kings

Hymnal #288

Verse 1: We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. *Refrain*

Verse 2: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Verse 3: Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising, worshiping God on high. *Refrain*

Verse 4: Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Verse 5: Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies. *Refrain*

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Flowers this week are given in celebration of the year with all the possibilities it brings for each member of our congregation and our church as a whole.



Family Promise is Coming: From January 19 – 26, 2025, FCPC will have the opportunity to shelter, feed, and welcome up to 4 families with children, who recently became homeless. Family Promise of Knoxville is helping these families address the issues that lead to homelessness and get back into housing. Families in the program are often experiencing homelessness for the first and hopefully the last time in their lives. Signup by scanning the QR code or visiting the link in the weekly word.

The Women of Hope Bible Study will begin a new book, "Brave and Beloved- An In Depth Study of Women in the Bible" by Meredith Storrs beginning Tuesday, January 7th. This group meets every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in the library and is ed by Susan Espiritu. If you have any questions, you may reach out to her or call the church office.



Dinners for Eight: Dana Lamb and the Congregational Connections team are organizing a new year of Dinners for Eight! This is a great way to get to know your fellow FCPC friends and family in a smaller, more intimate setting. Dates, times, and locations will be determined once enough people have signed up. Please signup using the link below if you are interested in hosting or just attending!

Second Friday Presbyterians will gather at Kern's Food Hall this Friday at 6:30 PM.

Lunch Bunch will take the church van to Chesapeake's Seafood Restaurant on Thursday, January 23rd. The van will depart FCPC at 10:30 AM. Please RSVP to Susan Espiritu one week in advance.

JAHREZEIT

May their memory be for a blessing.

1/7/82 Helen Jack, 1/10/05 Minnie Mae Taylor, 1/5/07 Dottie Brandon, 1/5/14 Dierks Limbaugh,
1/10/14 John Dowling

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1/5 Jim Hickman, 1/5 Syd Murray, 1/7 Denna Grogan, 1/7 Nancy Noel, 1/8 Susan Espiritu, 1/10 Jonathan Hickman,
1/10 Yolanda Kelly, 1/11 Aaron Bales

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Dan Rhea
Greeters.....Pat Lipps, Sue Wheeler
Ushers.....Barbara Riehl, Nancy & David Noel, Cathy Forester
Music.....FCPC Chancel Choir
Tech Team.....Mac Holland, Thomas Rader, Brett Miller, Debbie Hawkins
Faithful Friends (Children's Worship).....Susan Espiritu, April Lamb
Nursery.....Laurismar Wrinkle, Laura Marquez



Our Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse, *Interim Pastor*
Ashton Hicks, *Office Administrator*
Bob Eubanks, *Choir Director*
George Hill, *Organist*
Nancy Wells, *Pianist*