



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN
January 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Christmas

Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

#### **GATHERING**

### ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

Colleen & Keira Walker

Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

#### **PRELUDE**

**INTROIT** There's A Star in the East

Senior Choir

Traditional Spiritual

**WELCOME & TIDINGS** 

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 95

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

All: let us make a joyful noise.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: O come let us worship and bow down.

All: Let our prayers and praise be offered.

Leader: For the Lord is our God,

All: And we are God's beloved.

# \*HYMN 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Rev. Khayla Johnson

\*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION - Unison

God of steadfast love, hear our confession.

Forgive our indifference to suffering.

For the shallow empathy and trap of sadness,

For the safety we protect as others suffer,

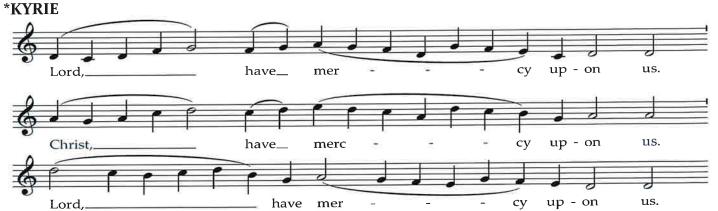
For the cautions covering our fear.

Give us courage to draw near those in pain;

Give us courage to speak your gospel;

Give us courage to live as your disciples.

God of steadfast love accept our confession. Amen.



Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Khayla Johnson

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.



**CHILDREN'S TIME** 

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Pre-K to  $2^{nd}$  grade will join Deb Teall in room 108.  $3^{rd}$  to  $6^{th}$  grade will join Jen Casey in the GLOW room for a lesson about New Years resolutions.

# THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 23:1-9

Jamie Kowalski & Bill Nann

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** We Have Seen His Star in the East

Senior Choir

John Carter

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

**SERMON** 

"Religion Should Make You Better"

Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

#### SETTLING OF THE WORD

\*HYMN 144 In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

## WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS JOINING OUR CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Charles Day & Sandra Slobodien, Clerks of Session

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

Kristen Berman

John Kenyon

Mark Berman

Dominic Sequeira

Lin Hrycenko

Janice Sequeira

# \*CONFESSION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed) - Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

#### **OFFERTORY**

\*DOXOLOGY What Child Is This (verse 3) So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high! The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

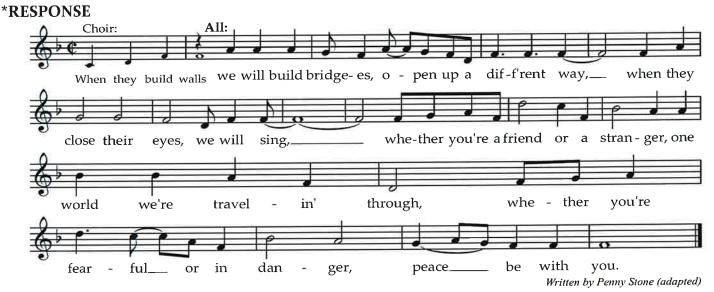
**GREENSLEEVES** 

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.



# THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Khayla Johnson & Rev. Leksmana Leonard

A gluten-free option is available on the Communion table. Please ask a server for assistance.

COMMUNION HYMN 152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the

faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All:

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.

## **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

All:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Khayla Johnson & Rev. Leksmana Leonard

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 let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.

Bapa kami yang di sorga,
Dikuduskanlah nama-Mu, datanglah Kerajaan-Mu,
jadilah kehendak-Mu di bumi seperti di sorga.
Berikanlah kami pada hari ini makanan kami yang
secukupnya dan ampunilah kami akan kesalahan kami,
seperti kami juga mengampuni orang yang bersalah
kepada kami;
dan janganlah membawa kami ke dalam pencobaan,
tetapi lepaskanlah kami dari pada yang jahat.
Karena engkaulah yang punya Kerajaan, Kuasa dan
Kemuliaan sampai Se-lamat nya.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND THE CUP

**COMMUNION PRAYER** 

\*HYMN 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** 

Amen.

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Our greeters this morning are the Kozo and Mollison family, and the ushers are Marty Brennan, Betty Kopetz, and Bill Volz.

Serving communion are Heather Casey, Maggy Cook, Susan Hammer, and Gary Ostermueller.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Deb Teall, with love to Carolyn and Drew Perez as they celebrate their birthdays and anniversary this month.

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

## Exodus 23:1-9

"You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with the wicked to act as a malicious witness. You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice, nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit. "When you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you shall bring it back.

"When you see the donkey of one who hates you struggling under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free.

"You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in their lawsuits. Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and those in the right, for I will not acquit the guilty. You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds officials and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.

"You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1-6

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had edema. And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him and sent him away. Then he said to them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?" And they could not reply to this.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

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## PEMBACAAN ALKITAB PERTAMA

## Keluaran 23:1-9

"Janganlah engkau menyebarkan kabar bohong; janganlah engkau membantu orang yang bersalah dengan menjadi saksi yang tidak benar. Janganlah engkau turutturut kebanyakan orang melakukan kejahatan, dan dalam memberikan kesaksian mengenai sesuatu perkara janganlah engkau turutturut kebanyakan orang membelokkan hukum. Juga janganlah memihak kepada orang miskin dalam perkaranya.

Apabila engkau melihat lembu musuhmu atau keledainya yang sesat, maka segeralah kaukembalikan Binatang itu. Apabila engkau melihat rebah keledai musuhmu karena berat bebannya, maka janganlah engkau enggan menolongnya. Haruslah engkau rela menolong dia dengan membongkar muatan keledainya.

Janganlah engkau memperkosa hak orang miskin di antaramu dalam perkaranya. Haruslah kaujauhkan dirimu dari perkara dusta. Orang yang tidak bersalah dan orang yang benar tidak boleh kaubunuh, sebab Aku tidak akan membenarkan orang yang bersalah. Suap janganlah kauterima, sebab suap membuat buta mata orangorang yang melihat dan memutarbalikkan perkara orang-orang yang benar. Orang asing janganlah kamu tekan, karena kamu sendiri telah mengenal keadaan jiwa orang asing, sebab kamu pun dahulu adalah orang asing di tanah Mesir.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

## PEMBACAAN ALKITAB KEDUA

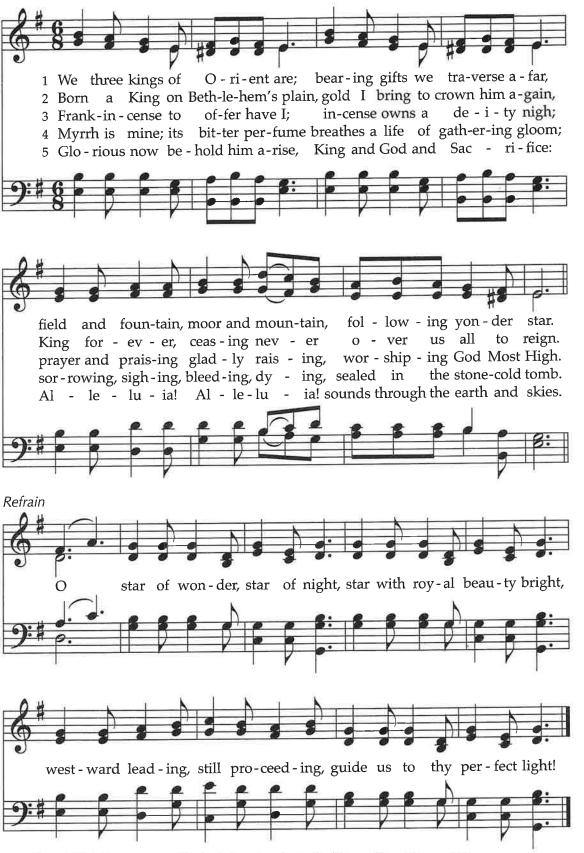
# Lukas 14:1-6

Pada suatu hari Sabat Yesus datang ke rumah salah seorang pemimpin dari orang-orang Farisi untuk makan di situ. Semua yang hadir mengamat-amati Dia dengan saksama. Tiba-tiba datanglah seorang yang sakit busung air berdiri di hadapan-Nya. Lalu Yesus berkata kepada ahli-ahli Taurat dan orang-orang Farisi itu, kata-Nya: "Diperbolehkankah menyembuhkan orang pada hari Sabat atau tidak?" Mereka itu diam semuanya. Lalu Ia memegang tangan orang sakit itu dan menyembuhkannya dan menyuruhnya pergi. Kemudian Ia berkata kepada mereka: "Siapakah di antara kamu yang tidak segera menarik ke luar anaknya atau lembunya kalau terperosok ke dalam sebuah sumur, meskipun pada hari Sabat?" Mereka tidak sanggup membantah-Nya."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

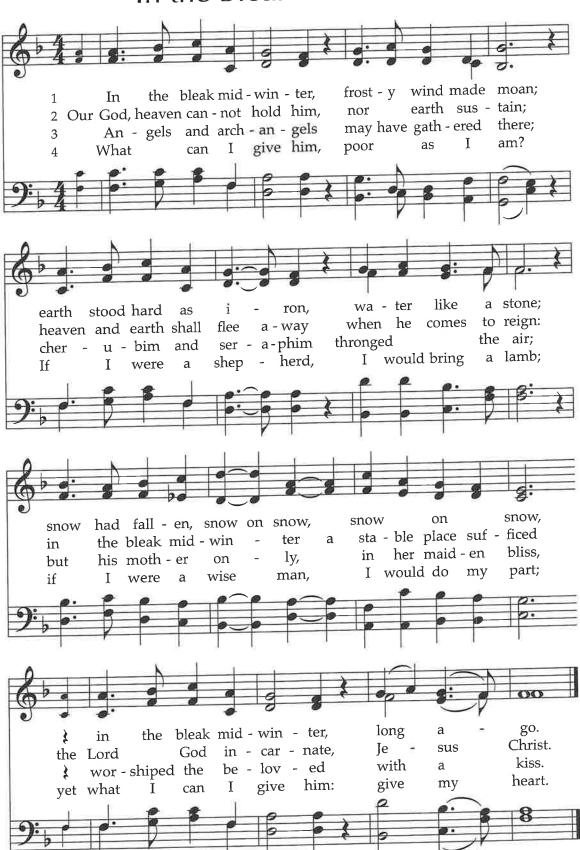
PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

# 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



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.

# In the Bleak Midwinter 144



Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

# What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152



This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

## **OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST**

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Jackson Alcantara (grandson of Lori Nielsen)

James Angley (Lynne Angley's son)

John Bertelsen and family (Brother of Amy Bertelsen-

Robles)

Brad (friend of Ingrid Hammond)

Pat Byrne (Sue Harmon's brother-in-law)

Dorothy Canary (aunt of Sue Harmon)

Luis Canton (Laurie Toth's father)

Art Cubbage (father of Laura Draper)

\*Mary Kay Dangremond

\*Henry and Rita Dengah

Darla Dimatteo

George Doerbecker (friend of Kristina Scoglio)

\*Ruth Endicott

Hank Frank, Jr. (Deb Teall's partner)

\*Marie Freeman

\*Judy Fuller

Marc Gale (Marie Gale's husband)

\*Marie Gale

\*Doris Gulotta

\*Joey Hale (Son of Matt and Laura Hale)

\*Margaret Hathaway

Jay and family (friend of Ingrid Hammond)

Kalkan/Poandl family

Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (friend of the Hajjar family)

\*Susan Kozo

Jetty Mailangkay (wife of Rev. Herby Moningka)

Dennis Maiuro (Colleen Walker's brother-in-law)

Patricia Maktal (friend of Messina Family)

\*Ed Meyer

Elliot Miller (Larrie Servino's brother)

Maureen Muggeo (Carla Trolaro's mother)

Michael Murach (Kristina Scoglio's cousin)

Virginia Newton (Virginia Shaw's mother)

Linda Ngunda (Malawian Matthew's wife)

Jeff Rubin (friend of June Keehbler)

\*Dave Ryder

Angela Sampoli (friend of Dawn Adam)

Cara Moskal Scacco (niece of June Young)

Karen Scoglio (Kristina Scoglio's mother)

\*Lorraine Sheaffer

\*Tomara Situmeang

\*Deb Sorensen

Katie Strittmatter (friend of Kozo-Mollison family)

**Bud Wilson** (friend of Niall Corbalis)

**David Wong** 

\*Lynn Hendricks Wong

# Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

\*Members of the church

### **PASTORAL CARE:**

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Rev. Dr. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

#### FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA (Son of Fred & Kathy Garry)

MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (Son of Elaine Hansen)

MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (Sue Harmon's cousin)

Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law)

Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot & DO, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho (Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano)

LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (Pennix Family friend)

\*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver)

CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr)

Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew)

# THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm And by appointment for other times				
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m. Presentation and Recognition of New Members After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room 10:30 a.m.				
MONDAY, JANUARY 5 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge 6:00 p.m. DBSA Support Group – Deacons Room 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.				
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6  Deacons Meeting – Chapel				
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge				
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8Junior Club – Social Center.5:30 p.m.Local Mission – Auditorium.11:45 a.m.Mission Commission – PW Lounge.7:00 p.m.				
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 Women's AA Support Grp – Deacons Rm 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.				
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 CARE Team – PW Lounge				

# **COMING SOON**

Jan 13	PW Coordinating ream – PW Lounge – 11.00 am
Jan 13	Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm
Jan 14	Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
Jan 14	Youth Group Resumes
Jan 15	Stewardship Comm. – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
Jan 15	Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
Jan 18	Youth Commission – PW Lounge – 10:30 am
Jan 20	Personnel – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm
Jan 20	Social Justice – PW Lounge – 7:30 pm
lan 21	B & G = PW Lounge = 8.00 am

## TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received December 28

 <u>\$</u>	688
\$	
\$	981
\$	2,320
\$	2,290
\$	7,777
TOTAL	\$ \$ \$

OTHER RECEIPTS \$160

(Parking)

## HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!OnlineFrom our website fpcweb.org/give, click on the Give Online button. This will redirect you to

the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Thank you for your generous support!

## **FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:**

Scan the QR code or visit our website https://bit.ly/4emWby6



#### **CHURCH STAFF:**

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Associate Pastor Rev. Khayla Johnson

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert A. Beringer

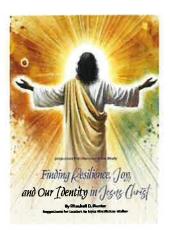
Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas

Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

#### **HORIZON BIBLE STUDY**

#### Who doesn't need some JOY?

As we start a new year, join the Horizon Bible Study in their continuing study on "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ!" Join us in person or by zoom this Monday, January 5, at 6:00 pm, in the PW Lounge.

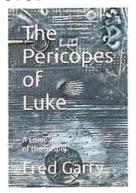


We will look at the passage on "The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child and the Devoted Parent," from Luke 15:11-32, and learn that God offers grace and love, not because of what we do, but because of who we are – beloved children of God.

This study meets on the first Monday of every month through June 2026. We welcome all in person or via Zoom. The Study is available on our website and in paperback. Check the PW page on our website for the lesson and the zoom link. Email Deb Teall for more information: debtealleditor@gmail.com

## **PASTORAL BIBLE STUDY**

Rev. Garry's mid-week study on the Pericopes of Luke returns this Wednesday, January 7 at 10:30 am, in the PW Lounge. We hope to see you there!



Every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month \*\*
5:30 pm to 6:15 pm

We kick off the New Year with some fun in the Gaga Pit. Junior Club will meet this Thursday, January  $8^{\text{th}}$  in the Social Center .

Friends are always welcome! Introduce them to the Junior Club. See you!



Thank you to the many children and volunteers who made this year's pageant very memorable.