

First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

Music Leader: Moona Yu; Elder of the Month: Jocelyn Clark

Pastor: Rev. Meg Jackson Clark

*All are invited to rise in body or spirit.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Moona Yu

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jocelyn Clark

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Steven Brown

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way.

But the manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

We may not be brought to our knees in joy as were those journeyers of old.

But we desire to worship Christ just as they did.

We do not bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

But we offer ourselves and what we have.

The story continues - the good news abounds.

There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

*HYMN 145

What Child Is This

Congregation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness.

We stumble around bombarded by news of illness and famine,

poverty and violence, injustice and oppression.

The enormity of the darkness can overwhelm and paralyze us.

Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy

into all the dark places of our lives and world.

Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem.

Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star.

Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

As certain as the dawn follows the night,

so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all.

Arise and shine. Follow the star.

We seek the light of the world born in Bethlehem.

Be transformed from darkness into light.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to greet one another saying "The Peace of Christ be with you," or responding "and also with you".

*581 GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jocelyn Clark
(p. 690, Pew Bible)

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

(p. 2, Pew Bible)

Sermon

Leaning to the Light

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (p. 35, Hymnal) Apostles' Creed

Congregation

*HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Congregation

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am Bb C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
Bb F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy...Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

As the bread is shared, you are invited to join in singing 525, Let Us Break Bread Together.

As the cup is shared, you are invited to join in singing 227, Jesus, Remember Me.

Prayer after Communion

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*606 DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Moona Yu

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bright Star, Holy One, hear our prayer.

Be with those who suffer, struggle, cry out, weep, or are in pain of heart or soul or mind;

From the darkness may the glory of God arise!

Fill the hearts of leaders, nations, cities, and faith communities;

With wisdom and grace may the glory of God arise!

Lead our leaders in your way, your hope, your love and your peace;

Enlighten their pathways with the glory of God arising.

Laugh with those who laugh this day; lift up our joys, for our hope is found in You;

May the Glory of God arise.

Help us in all we do, say, and are to be your love shining forth – may the glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One, hear our prayer.

(We keep silence as we lift up in prayer all who are on our hearts.)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (p. 35, Hymnal)

***HYMN 744**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Congregation

***BENEDICTION**

And all God’s children say...**Alleluia! Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Moona Yu

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Jan & Alex Brazier in celebration of Jan’s birthday and of Jan & Alex’s 51st wedding anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Up:

Sunday, January 5, 12 Noon Called Session Meeting

Sunday, January 12 Ordination of Elders

&

12 Noon Pizza with the Pastor - if you are new to the Presbyterian Church or to First Presbyterian, please join us to learn more about our church. RSVP to fpcgreensboroga@gmail.com.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Carol McGahee

James Collins

Nancy Rabun

Chuck Thorp

Jane Klaviter

Rayne Ann Wood

Colin Clark

Jay Mayo

Sandy Simon

David Blough

Jimmy Moore

Nation & World Leaders

Fran & Duane Blough

Jo Ann Nelson

People of Israel & Palestine

Hal Lipsey

Johnnie Satterfield

Ukrainian People

Hayley Burns

Julia Russell

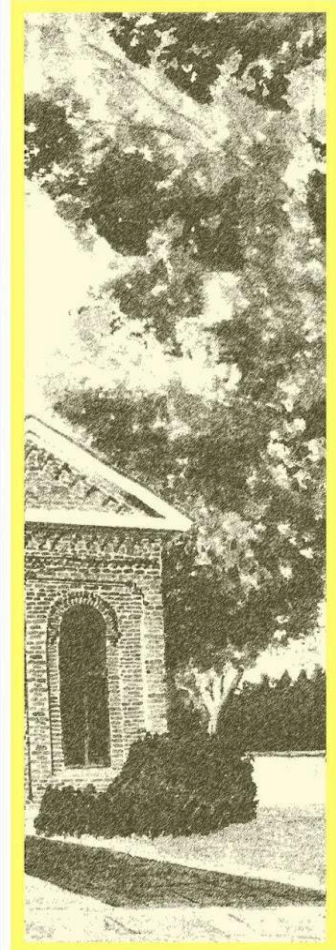
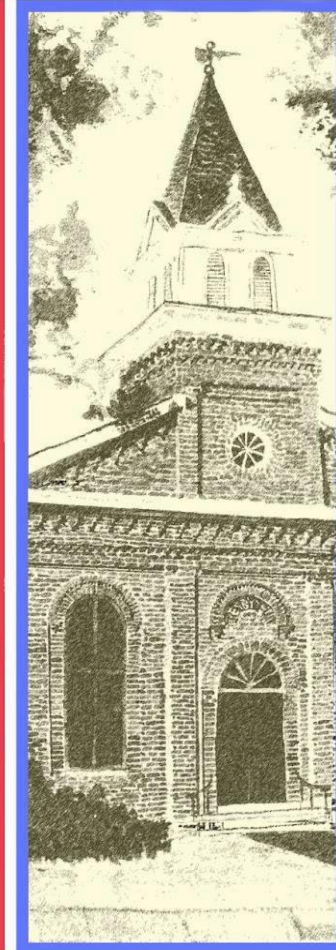
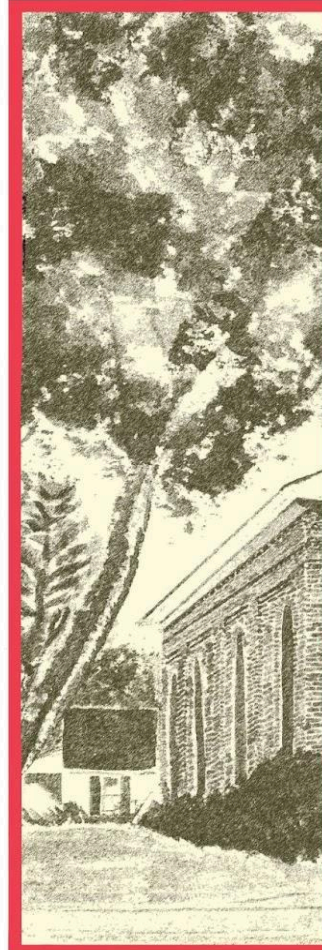
Veterans & Military Members

Each week we pray for one of our church’s families. This week we offer prayers for: *Patty Edmonds*

Welcome to First Presbyterian!

We are a historic, mission-minded church with Christ-centered, traditional, and relevant worship, eager to include everyone in our church family.

Life Goes Better with Church!



January 5, 2025

Epiphany