

Sent Out by God's Word

*Closing Hymn 540 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" (*verses 1 & 2*)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Kristian James

Welcome to the Worship of God!

Welcome! We hope the service touched your heart and spoke to your mind. Let us know how we might ever be of service. Feel free to call Pastor Ken at 732-501-6373 if you ever need assistance, have suggestions or just need a prayer.

Your ushers today are Mike Camfield, Steve Falloon and Kris Adams.

Mark your calendars! The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Fanwood Presbyterian Church to take place on Sunday, January 26th, 2025 following the worship service.

Office Hours, Week of January 5th:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:00 - 1:00, Wednesday: 9:00 - 2:00

Recent Prayer Requests

Families as they grieve: For the family of Richard B Watson (Linda Macari's uncle) who passed away December 30, the family of Jean B. Trumpp, the family of Dorothy (Dorie) Ledesma, Theodosia Ashie and her family; the family of Betty Zwicky, the family of Doug Clausen, Janet Scho and her family, The Miller family; the families of Ross Charnock, Emily Sena, Judy Walsh, Rob and Roseanne Lindemann. We pray for Elsi Madi, friend of the Macaris; Eyad and Kristina Khalifeh and Raine Grace Khalifeh, Jillian Knetchtel's mother, Susanne Stamm, Cena Pollit, Marcie Pollit, The DeFazio Family Mary Jankowski, Bill Murphy, (Linda's uncle), the Herrlich family, Ellie Kramps, Betty Gustafson, Liz Henderson, Betty Sharret, Jeannie, friend of MaryAnn Miller; Jim Tway, Rev. Charlie and Mary Sutton, the people in countries at war. If there are matters of concern or thanksgiving you would like included in our prayers or if you would like a name removed from the list, please fill out the prayer request portion of the connection card and put them into the offering or contact Lindsay at Fanwoodpres@gmail.com.



A Service for the Worship of God

10:30 a.m. *The Season of Epiphany* January 5, 2025

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Kristian James

Greetings, Welcome & Announcements

Leader: The peace of Christ Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

(A special welcome to our guest preacher Elder Linwood Bagby.)

*Opening Hymn 63 "As With Gladness Men of Old" (*verses 1, 2, 4*)

Call to Worship (*Jeremiah 31*)

Leader: For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

People: Proclaim, give praise, and say 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.'

Leader: See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

People: Among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;

Leader: A great company, they shall return here.

People: With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back.

Call to Confession (*Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16*)

Wisdom delivers a holy people from a nation of oppressors. She enters the soul of a servant of the Lord, withstanding dread kings with wonders and signs. As we confess that our strivings for Holy wisdom fall short, we lament the oppression of the nations. As we confess that we don't always act as though our servant souls are imbued by God's wisdom, we lament the power of dread kings. Let us offer, therefore, prayers of lament and confession.

Prayer of Confession (*Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16*)

All: Redeem your world, O Lord. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation. Redeem your people, O Lord. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. (*see next page*)

Too often, we fail to speak your truth. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.

Kyrie
Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Gloria Patri 579**
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 of the Peace**
Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you. (or Peace be with you. or Peace.)
Response: **And also with you.**

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message
(The children, preschool through fifth grade, may leave for church school after the message.)

Prayer for Illumination *(John 1:1-5)*
"In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him." As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word, your light shining in the darkness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Readings
Old Testament Isaiah 9: 1-7
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon "Finding the King" Elder Linwood Bagby

Responding to God's Word

Call For The Offering *With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.*

Offering Hymn 67 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

***Doxology 592**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen.

Invitation Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray as Christ prayed:

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 from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread *(based on 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)*

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, 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. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Communion Song "Light of the World" by Lauren Daigle

Communion *(Everyone please hold on to the elements until everyone is served and then partake when Elder Linwood says:)*

Leader: The body of Christ given for you. (The blood of Christ shed for you.)

All: Thanks be to God. (Or Amen.)