



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

\*We invite you to stand as able.

*Epiphany Sunday*

*~The Gathering~*

GREETING

Rev. Matt Nieman

PRELUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*  
Dr. Linda Stutzenberger, guest organist

Buxtehude

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CALL TO WORSHIP

How did you get here?

**I walked, eyes looking up, following the star. I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me. I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step. I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow. I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

Tell me again. How did you get here?

**I am here by God's grace and love's pull.**

Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

**Let us worship our gracious God.**

\*HYMN #56

*The First Nowell*  
(verses 1-4)

The First Nowell

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

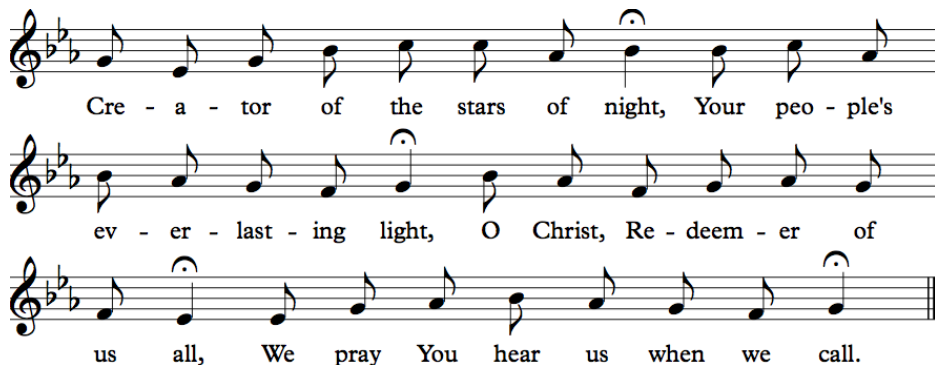
\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new beginnings,  
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply  
because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy  
and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be  
tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage  
to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another  
way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new  
direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when  
you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to  
follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.**

*(please continue in silent prayer)*

\*KYRIE ELEISON

Conditor alme siderum

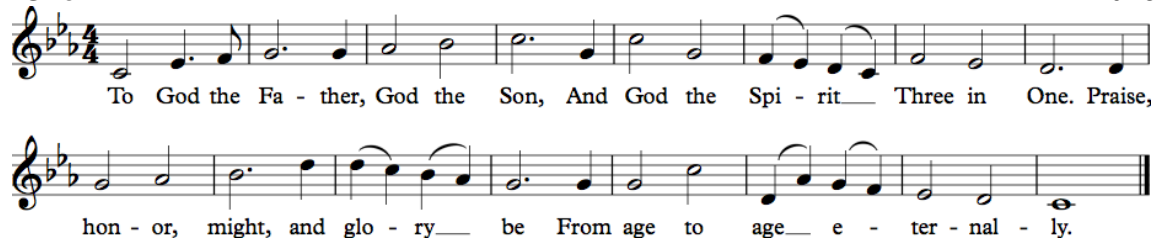


Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's  
ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of  
us all, We pray You hear us when we call.

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*GLORIA PATRI

Truro



To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Spi - rit Three in One. Praise,  
hon - or, might, and glo - ry be From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

**\*THE PEACE**

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

*~The Word~*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LisaKay Matchen

**God of starlight, we long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12

[Pew Bible pg. 2]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

PSALM 72 (unison, Tune: Ein' Feste Burg)

Morgan

**Grant justice, Lord, to those who rule;  
Let righteousness compel their hand;  
Their courts shall bear prosperity,  
And serve the poor throughout the land.  
O Lord, our cause defend;  
Deliverance quickly send  
To those who, bound in chains  
Of greed and selfish gains,  
Submit themselves to Your command.**

**As long as sun and stars of space  
Walk their divine-appointed round;  
Long as endures our feeble race,  
The blessings of the Lord abound.  
Like rains that feed the field,  
Our Lord to us will yield  
The bounty and the peace  
Which God will never cease  
To shower where true faith is found. *(cont. on the next page)***

**God's righteousness extends to all  
Who seek assurance in distress;  
The weak who in their anguish bend  
When hate and violence oppress.  
As golden sheaves of grain,  
God's harvest we remain;  
All praise to God above!  
Who crowns our life with love,  
O bless God's name forever.**

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

[Pew Bible pg. 672]

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Words for the Beginning: The Road Isn’t Straight” Rev. Matt Nieman

*~The Response~*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn. And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way. Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God’s fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.**

\*HYMN #66

*We Three Kings*

Three Kings of Orient

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

## ~The Eucharist~

### THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

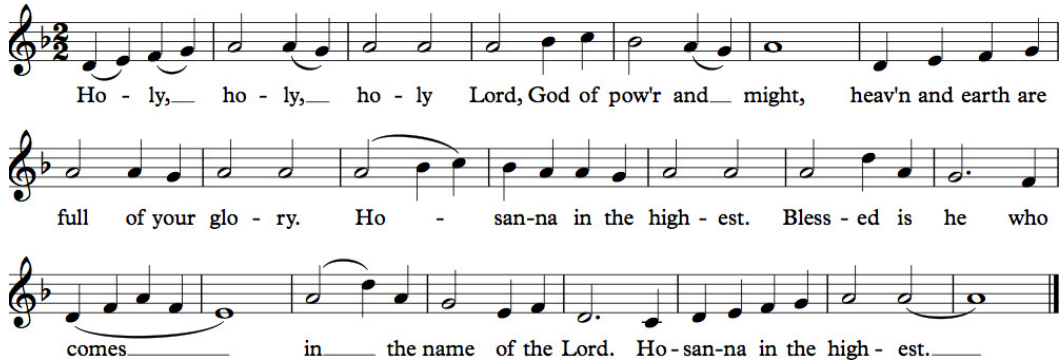
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(prayer continues)*

### SANCTUS

Picardy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

Picardy

Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_ God, you take a-way the sins of the world:  
 have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy \_\_\_ on us. Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_ God, you  
 take a-way the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ the world: grant \_\_\_\_\_ us thy\_ peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*~The Sending~*

\*HYMN #22 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Regent Square

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #66 *We Three Kings* (refrain) Three Kings of Orient

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;  
 Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

\*POSTLUDE *In Thee is Gladness* Bach  
 Dr. Linda Stutzenberger, guest organist

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*Usher* ~ Thom Haig

*A/V Team* ~ Ken Ladrach, David Long, Mason Warren, Parker Morrell,  
 Turner Neely, & Kat Wilson

**Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:**



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at [office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org), or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.

### **SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS**

If you can help in any of the submitted categories: usher, scripture reader, or communion server, please go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp> and sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).



Please join Presbyterian Women as we help stock the Sunset Gap food pantry during this season of high unemployment. In October, the pantry served 565 families, 2542 people, and in Nov they served 520 families (only open 3 weeks) for 2340 people.

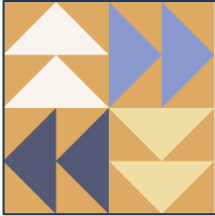
**Items most needed include flour, sugar, cornmeal mix, cooking oil, peanut butter, pasta & canned pasta sauce, canned meat, rice, mac & cheese, breakfast items, Ramen noodles and crackers.**

The drive will be January 19- February 9. Items can be placed in the basket in the narthex. If you have questions, contact Debbie Long.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to FPC volunteers, Men's Bible Study volunteers who prepared and fed the homeless in December at **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER** in downtown Knoxville. Wayne Walls, Jack Rightmyer, John Sharp, David Stutzenberger and Frank Dorman. If you would like to help with future monthly meals, check the table in the narthex to sign up, or contact Jean Peretz. The next date to serve is Tuesday, January 21.



**PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Kathy Emmerson, Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Dixie Heflin, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Bruce Wilson, Brenda Luggie

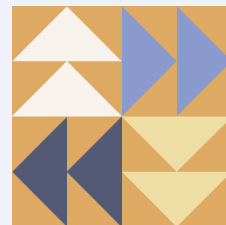


## THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT

### *Field Notes*

With tears in your eyes,  
you name all the bumps  
and zigzags your life has taken.  
With clenched teeth  
and a hummingbird pulse,  
you wake up  
and wonder—how did I get here?  
In the last 40 days of  
desert wandering, you say  
you haven't heard God's voice once.  
You say you miss when God was close,  
when God used to sing the harmony line.  
So you yell at the sky,  
begging God to drop a pin,  
to name the road,  
to draw you a map.  
You lament the way this life isn't easy.  
You ask me—was the road ever straight and narrow,  
or was that all a lie?  
But then you crest the mountain,  
and I don't hear from you for a while,  
because God was growing  
in the lilac field  
on the other side of the hill.  
God was scattered  
among the pebbles  
of the road you never planned to take.  
Isn't it amazing, you say,  
there are a million roads home  
and God walks every single one of them.

*Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed*



### *The Road Isn't Straight*

The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.



## *Star of Bethlehem*

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12

They come from afar. I imagine the Magi as queens of wisdom, wealth, and power, bringing their entourage, a vast number of people, to care for them. They protect the Magi on their journey over the dunes and around the twists and turns, ensuring they arrive safely. They come to pay homage to the baby, the holy child.

In this *Words for the Beginning* series, I began each painting with a circular energy. There is a central focus to each design. Each painting has an original quilt square pattern which repeats as the border.



The center design is a different iteration of the same idea. For this design, the main motif is the star of Bethlehem. The Bible pages of Matthew 2 are torn apart and glued as a texture within the star points, representing our need to constantly break down fear in service to the God who calls us into a fearless life of love. The star pattern is overlaid in chalk and soft pastel, reiterating the power of God as our guide—who, in this text, is showing the way home by another road. In our own lives and communities, each of us is vulnerable to political corruption. How are we responding? Whom do we follow as our guide? God calls the Magi home by another road, and their choice to heed the call opens space for Jesus' ministry within the community, which will demonstrate the power of steadfast love. Shortly thereafter, God calls Mary and Joseph to journey to another land, to protect the Messiah until they are safe to return home. What parallels do we see in our own systems, and in our own lives?

In this text, the Magi are dreaming my dreams. The imperial power threatens to kill the long-awaited Messiah. These kinds of threats exist in our own lives too. The Magi seek another way home. I dream of the winding road that is God's call. The road isn't straight. Can you see your next bend?

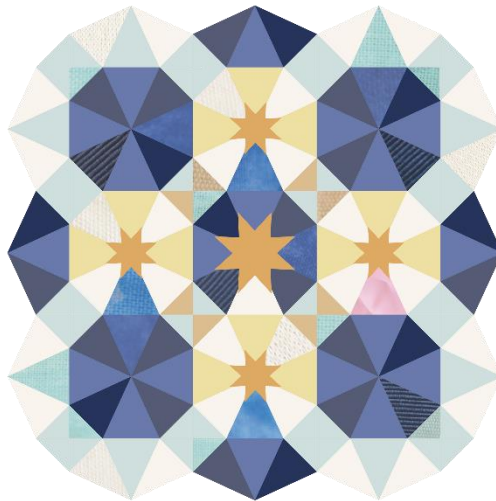
—Hannah Garrity





We, the staff of Farragut Presbyterian Church, would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our church family for your generosity towards our holiday bonuses this year. We, along with our families, truly appreciate you.

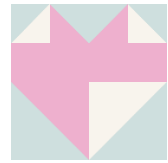
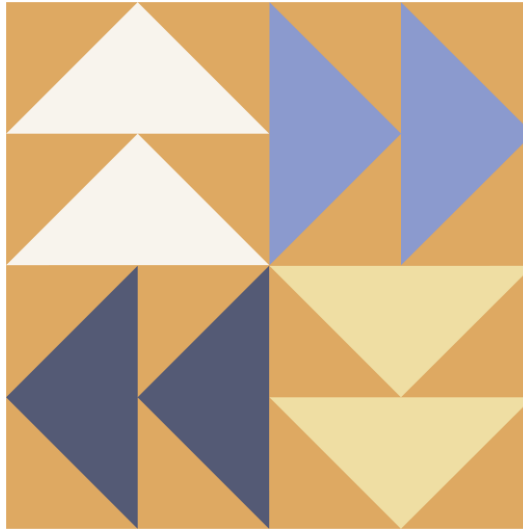
*Rev. Matt Nieman, Tami Newsom, Dr. Angela Batey, Mason Warren,  
Dawn Zilles, Collin Greaser, Lori Corbett and Sandra Bohlken*





# WORDS

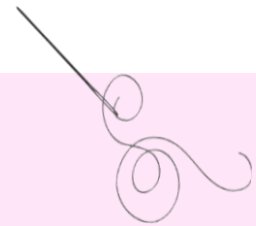
FOR THE **BEGINNING**  
— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —



## *A Prayer for the New Year*

Holy God who lights our way,  
We thank you for this moment of respite along the journey, a moment to be filled with good things, reminded of our belovedness, and sent out to be your hands and feet in the world. Though we'd often prefer a straightforward, step-by-step plan for our lives, you've instead given us an invitation to wander, to seek, to take a different road, to be guided by a star. May this star guide us to look under every rock and around every corner, seeking you out everywhere, because everywhere is exactly where you are. And next year, when the road leads back to this very place, may we find that you were with us every step of the way.

With hope we pray, amen.





## *This Week at FPC*

Sun, Jan 5	9am Casual Service ~ 11am Traditional Worship Service		
Mon, Jan 06	5:30	p.m.	Youth Group/Parlor
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	11:00	a.m.	Lectio Divina/Room D
Tues, Jan 07	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	5:30	p.m.	Outreach Committee/Library
	6:30	p.m.	Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Room A
Wed, Jan 08	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts #444/FH, Room A, Narthex
	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #3/Library
	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	12:00	p.m.	Room D/Parlor Reserved
Thurs, Jan 09	6:00	p.m.	Casual Worship Music Practice/Room A
	8:00	a.m.	Men's Bible Study/Narthex
	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall
Fri, Jan 10	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
Sat, Jan 11	9:00	a.m.	Session Strategic Planning/Library
	1:00	p.m.	HOA Meeting/Room A



*Farragut Presbyterian Church*  
 209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934  
 865/966-9547 ~ [www.fpctn.org](http://www.fpctn.org)



<http://tinyurl.com/FPCe-giving>



*"To praise God, welcome all, serve others, grow in faith,  
 be disciples of Jesus Christ and share the Good News."*