First United Presbyterian Church

January 5, 2025

**GATHERING**

**CHIMES** Set your heart for worship, if you must whisper, let it be in prayer.

**PRELUDE** “Prologue” -Menotti

(Amahl and the Night Visitors)

**OPENING WORDS**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And, also with you!**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Praise the Lord.

**All: Praise God**

One: God grants us peace joy, hope and love.

**All: God watches out for our needs.**

One: God is mighty and strong

**All: But God is also merciful and full of grace. Amen**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #69 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

O Morning Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and light!  
My Sovereign meek and lowly!

O Root of Jesse, Promised One, my God and Ruler,

you have won my heart to serve you solely!

You are holy, great and glorious, all-victorious,

Rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep within my heart now shine,  
there make yourself an altar!  
Fill me with joy and strength to be your member, joined eternally  
in love that cannot falter;  
Longing for you does possess me; turn and bless me;  
Here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we have celebrated your birth, and we have looked on the baby in the manger. Like the wisemen, we have made our pilgrimage of hope. Help us Lord to not leave the journey in its beginning. Help us to continue to journey with you, and to strive to be the children of God that you have called us to be. When we fear and doubt, have mercy on us and grant us strength. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*RESPONSE TO PARDON** #570 Gloria Patri

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**All: And, also with you!**

One: Please pass the peace to those around you.

**\*GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE**  “Sanctuary”

**PROCLAMATION**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**EPISTLE READING**  Ephesians 1:3-14

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL READING** John 1:1-18

**SERMON** “Fulfillment” Rev. Greg Menssen

**RESPONDING**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** #62 Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

Bring we the frankincense of our love To the feet of the holy Child, Ever remembering God’s great gift Of a love that is undefiled,

Refrain: Holy the infant, and holy the mother And holy and precious the gifts that we bring; Praise to the Father and praise to the Spirit And praise to Christ Jesus our King.

Bring we the myrrh of humility To the throne of the Son of God, Ever recalling the purity Of his life when the earth he trod.

Refrain

Ever secure in his changlessness, Though the kingdoms of earth may fail, Bring we the gold of our faithfulness To the King who is Lord of all!

Refrain

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORDS PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “He is Born, the Divine Christ Child” -French Carol

**\*DOXOLOGY** #592

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #63 As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee whom Heav’n and Earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek thy mercy seat.

Holy Jesus, ev’ry day Keep us in the narrow way,  
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy glory hide.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE** “March of the Three Kings” -Provencal 13th Century