

The Church at Worship

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

Congregational responses and unison readings are indicated in bold.

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING #1

PRELUDE *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* # 394

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(adapted from Psalm 98:1-7)*

Dear Lord, we sing to you a new song because you have done marvelous things, we are in awe of the works of your salvation! We shout because the joy you give us is uncontainable! We praise you with the harp and with the sound of singing. We pray that all music is to glorify your great name. You are an awesome Father - we choose to worship you this morning with songs as well as in Spirit and truth and in all that we do, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 150)*

Leader: Praise God in his sanctuary.

People: Praise him in his mighty heavens.

Leader: Praise him for his acts of power.

People: Praise him for his surpassing greatness!

ALL: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre.

Leader: Praise him with the tambourine and dancing,

People: Praise him with the strings and flute.

Leader: Praise him with the clash of cymbals,

People: Praise him with resounding cymbals.

ALL: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

READING #2

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Wonderful Words of Life* #177

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Heavenly Father, we confess we have sinned against you and that we are sinners. We have followed our own way and refused to give you the right to rule in and over our lives. We see that we are separated from you and we cannot rescue ourselves. We are asking you to forgive us for all our sins, not on the bases of our good works or what we will do but what Jesus Christ has already done for us at the Cross. In Jesus' name we pray this. Amen

(Moment for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17)*

One: *Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.*

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Response to Forgiveness

READING #3 *Gloria Patri* #620

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: *The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.*

All: And also with you.

(Please turn to those around you and extend the hand of peace and friendship)



The Word



READING #4 *In the Garden* # 267

READING #5 *He Touched Me* # 314

READING #6 *Count Your Blessings* # 596

The Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Eucharist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

READING #7

**DOXOLOGY*

623

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all people here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father; Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Sending

READING #8

**CLOSING HYMN*

Blessed Be the Tie

138

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

READING #9

**CHORAL RESPONSE*

God Be With You

#583

POSTLUDE

Congregational Care

Bobby Basham, Rosemary Harris and her helper Linda; Ethan, friend of Nebe; Cindy Iszard's son, Zack; Lee Franklin Laster & wife; Emma Lollar; Glenda Moore's nephew, Brad; Terry Thomas, the Rev. Tracy Williams; those unable to attend church and those serving in the military, as missionaries and in works of mercy and relief around the world and their families.

Address for Emma Lollar:

Emma Lollar PSC 9
Box 884 APO, AE
09123

NOTICE:

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 11th.

From Christianity.com

What is Epiphany?

Epiphany means "appearance or manifestation." Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6 - 12 days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as "[Three Kings Day](#)." On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God's gift of the Good News is for everyone. [Eastern Christianity](#) observes Jesus' baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world in the East or the West.

The Origin of Epiphany

To understand Epiphany's origin, we need to look at the Church Calendar's history. In the first century, the earliest Christians set aside one day a week as the Lord's Day. We observe this day on Sunday. In the second century, they established Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Lent was a period of time set aside for penitence and the training of new Christians. Easter observed Christ's death and celebrated His Resurrection, followed by Pentecost, where the church focused on triumph and victory.

In the third century, the early Church leaders established Epiphany. This holiday celebrates and recognizes Christ's birth, baptism, the adoration of magi, and the first miracle at Cana. It wasn't until the end of the fourth century that early Christians began observing Christmas and Advent.

Christmas became the time to celebrate Jesus' birth. Advent is the four-week period of time before Christmas. It is used to prepare hearts to receive Jesus. As we can see, Epiphany originated from the earliest Church leaders and has a spiritual meaning. The Church Year begins at Advent. From then, through Pentecost, Christians concentrated on the life and work of Christ. For the rest of the year—Pentecost to Advent—the church year focuses on the teachings of Christ and their applications to the Christian life. The ultimate purpose of the church calendar ensured that Christians covered the entire breadth and depth of the [Gospel](#) in the course of a year. The six-month period from Advent to Pentecost covers all six major events: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

History and Traditions of Epiphany

Since epiphany means manifestation, early celebrations honored any of the four manifestations of Christ. His birth, the adoration of the Magi, Jesus' baptism, and the first miracle at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine.

These four manifestations reveal God to mankind. At his birth, the angels bore witness, and the shepherds, representing Israel, bowed before Jesus. The visit of the Magi revealed Jesus to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit descended at His baptism, and God declared Jesus' identity. The first miracle at the Wedding in Cana revealed Jesus' divinity over nature. God disclosed himself to humankind through the person of Jesus. He made himself known so we might know him.

Some traditions on Epiphany around the world include eating a "Kings Cake" with a trinket baked inside. Whoever finds the trinket, is King or Queen for the day. Who wouldn't want to be royalty for the day, right? It also points our hearts to our status as a royal priesthood, as Peter writes in [1 Peter 2](#). France calls it the Feast of Kings; in Spanish-speaking countries, it is called Three Kings Day.

The Leadership of the Church

SESSION serves as the governing council of the church.

Current members of the Session are:

Louan Pyron, Clerk

Cindy Lanphear, Treasurer

Class of 2023

Susan Pfeifler

David Pyron

Class of 2024

Linda McDougal

Chris Lanphear

Class of 2025

Stephen Fyr

Ann Pfeifler

HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1844

A Member Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT PFEIFLER

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Worship 10:00 a.m.