



# First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey

*"We Welcome All as we Celebrate God's Love."*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 4, 2026      10:00am  
Epiphany Sunday/Communion



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

**BOLD** means the congregation reading or singing  
\* means the congregation standing in body or spirit

### WELCOME

*(Please use this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.)*

### PRELUDE

*"Prelude on Quem Pastores"*

Paul Fey

### CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We come from north and south, east and west.

**PEOPLE: We come to worship the newborn king.**

LEADER: We come from rich home and poor homes.

**PEOPLE: We come to worship the newborn king.**

LEADER: We come with our joys, our grief, our hopes, and our fears.

**PEOPLE: Let us worship God together.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly King, like the wise men following the Star, we have journeyed through life, looking for you. Help us to find you today in this building, in the words of scripture, and in the people around us. Amen.

### \*HYMN 53

*What Child Is This*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, our Lord, we have journeyed far in our lives, growing and changing over time. But we confess that we do not always direct our paths towards you. We lie, cheat, and

**steal. We hurt our friends and families with words and deeds. We know we can be better people. Forgive us our sins and help us to embody your Spirit.** *(Our silent prayers continue...)*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

LEADER: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: the through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, we are reconciled with God.

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI - HYMN 581**

***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**

LEADER: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**PEOPLE: And also with you.**

LEADER: Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

### **ANTHEM**

*"Et in Terra Pax"*  
Chancel Choir

J. Purify

### **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

## **GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

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### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of light, we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh. Let these words fall on our hearts, challenge our minds, and change our lives. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12

The words of Scripture, inspired by God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> **For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.**

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.**

**<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.**

**<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 2:1-12

The words of Scripture, inspired by God. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*"Following a Star"*

Pastor Adrienne Poissant

**\*HYMN 66**

***We Three Kings***

## **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Apostles' Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY - HYMN 593**

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

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**Almighty God, You were born in a manger, visited by shepherds and kings alike. While we might not have gold, frankincense, and myrrh to deliver to you, we offer the gift of our time, talents, and tithes, so that you might use them to spread your peace through the world. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: GTG 506** *(See pg. 8)*

***Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table***

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

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**INVITATION TO THE TABLE****GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**PASTOR:** The Lord be with you.

**PEOPLE:** **And also with you.**

**PASTOR:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**PASTOR:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**PEOPLE:** **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*(our prayer continues)*

**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****COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(Communion will be served in seats. Gluten-free bread is in the small dish.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Spirit, remain with us as we depart from this table. Walk with us in the week ahead so that we might always remember the gifts God has given us; the gifts of irresistible grace and love that surpasses all understanding. Help us to show this love to all who might cross our paths. Amen.

\*HYMN 29 (See Page 11)

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

## WE GO TO SERVE GOD

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### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*(Please remain seated for the postlude and give thanks to God.)*

### POSTLUDE

*"Trumpet Fanfare"*

Paul Fey

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### Participating in Worship & Service Today:

Adrienne Poissant, Pastor; John Gagliardi, Organist; Dawn Latincsics, Music Director;  
Debbie Anderson, Lay Reader; Demetrious Savopoulos, Video.

### Multiple Ways to Make an Offering:

1. **Text** – Just text the word "GIVE" to 973-874-1277 and follow the link that will be texted back to you. You may make a donation using your credit card, your checking account, or your savings account.
2. **Bill Pay** – Your bank probably offers this option to make donations one-time or on a recurring basis - it's free, and 100% of your gift is received!
3. **Attend** worship in person and put your offering in the plate as it's passed.
4. **Mail** in your donation to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826.
5. **E-giving** – Go to our webpage at: <http://www.fpcbranchville.org> and click the link at the top of the page.



# Announcements

January 04, 2026

**WELCOME!** We give you warm greetings on this First Sunday of the month. We hope you feel welcome here and have been inspired by our worship. Please stay for fellowship and refreshments following worship.



**RENEWAL OF BAPTISM** – NEXT SUNDAY, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. In the Presbyterian tradition the Sacrament of Baptism occurs only once, but it is renewed in our hearts and minds, time and time again. We hope you will be on hand for this opportunity to renew and rededicate ourselves in discipleship and service to our servant Lord.

**1ST QUARTER LOCAL MISSION** - It's a new year – with an age-old challenge: HUNGER! Our first quarterly Local Mission once again focuses on helping to feed the hungry in two local “soup kitchens”: Manna House and Harvest House. Both of these long-running programs have adapted to the changes that come with time as they continue to provide a solid meal to those in need. Your donations will ensure the food and supplies that are needed will be available in order to serve our local population in need. Please help us continue to support these well-established organizations with a check made out to FPCB with “1st Quarterly Mission” in the memo line. If you are in the sanctuary, you can use the special envelopes in the pew. Your donations really make a difference!



**JOIN US FOR WALK N' TALK** — Winter 9am-10am, Monday thru Saturday: On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur: bevkeur@gmail.com. Hope to see you there. Please invite a friend to join us.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall for our second half of the year for volunteers as teachers, assistants and subs. This is an ongoing process and we appreciate all who have stepped in to keep us going! Anyone who volunteers with our children, will have to complete a background check through Ministry Safe, whether you have recently had one from another source or not. To make our volunteers aware, I will be in touch with you before I submit your name to start the process. Our next CE meeting will be Tues., 1/6 at 3:30 for the purpose of planning out the 2026 calendar.



**THE FOOD PANTRY** is in need of peanut butter, mayo, tuna and coffee. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community. The Pantry will be open every Wednesday from 10am – 12pm.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION/POTLUCK LUNCH** - The Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church will hold an Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Reports and to conduct such business as may be required. Please bring your favorite dish to share!



### CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND MINISTRIES

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Today	10:00am	Worship – Epiphany/Communion
Monday	4:00pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Tuesday	3:30pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Wednesday	10am-12pm	Food Pantry
Thursday	7:00pm	Chancel Choir
Next Sunday	10:00am	<i>Worship – Baptism of the Lord</i>





# What Child Is This

53

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

English ballad, 16th century

William Chatterton Dix, c. 1871

Arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

Em D G D Em Am B

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2. Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.

Em D G D Em Am B Em<sup>sus4</sup> Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet While shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en-throne Him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D Em Am B Em<sup>sus4</sup> Em

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!



## We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.44.6 with refrain

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.  
Intro. Robert Stigall, 1988

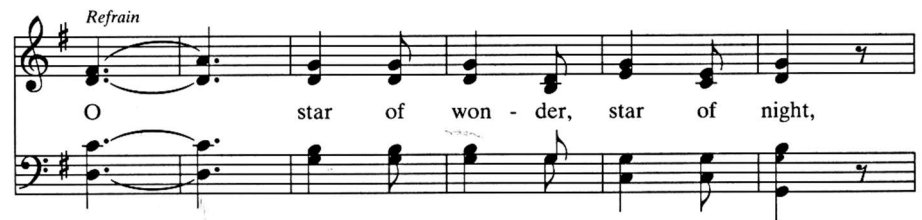
All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are,  
 Opt. solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain,  
 Opt. solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:  
 Opt. solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume  
 All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise,



Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,  
 Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing,  
 Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 King and God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,



moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.  
 we are rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia Sounds through the earth and skies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!

# 506 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
 dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es

all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.  
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
 wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual  
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872–1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

*Refrain*

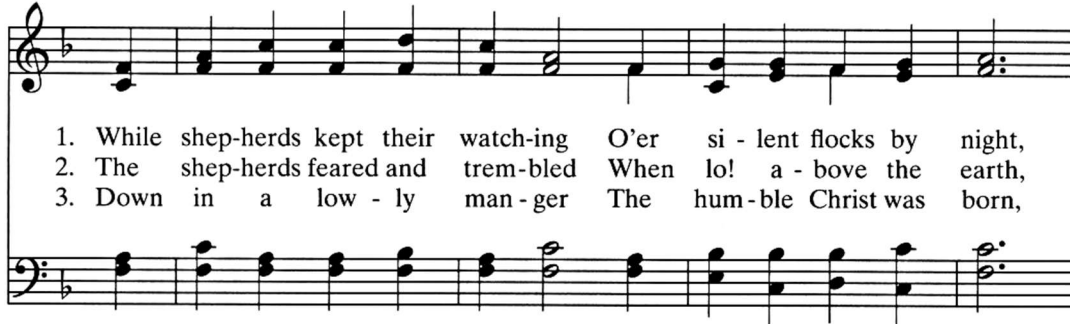


Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

*Fine*



Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

*D.C.*



Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.