

January 12, 2025; 9:00 am

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on Zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.

Prelude: "What Star is This, with Beams so Bright" arr. by Robin Dinda

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Carol W.

The Magi waited and watched,
knowing something wondrous would be happening.

**We waited for the birth of Jesus;
now something wondrous is about to take root.**

The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

Let us celebrate God's love shining brightly in our lives.

Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 152 “What Star is this, that Beams so Bright”**

Linda D. and Jonathan P., Cantors

***Call to Confession**

Carol W.

Broken? God promises to make us whole. Lost? God promises to come and find us, gather us up, and bring us home. Confused about tomorrow? God promises our future is grounded in love. Let us confess that, though we have heard the promises over and over, we have trouble believing them, as we pray together saying,

***Prayer of Confession**

Carol W.

Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The barrage of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

God of hope, unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

The light of God’s love transforms us so that we may act with boldness and confidence. Thanks be to God! AMEN.

***Sharing God's Peace**

Lift your eyes and look around. The light of Christ shines from the face of each one here. Let us now greet that light, rejoice that we are here together, and pass the peace of Christ, our joy and our hope.

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

***Sung Response: GTG 583 "Glory to God"**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Ps. 72:1–7, 10–14 (Common English Bible)

(page 533 in the pew Bible, page 719 Common English Bible)

God, give your judgments to the king.

Give your righteousness to the king's son.

**Let him judge your people with righteousness
and your poor ones with justice.**

Let the mountains bring peace to the people;
let the hills bring righteousness.

**Let the king bring justice to people who are poor;
let him save the children of those who are needy,
but let him crush oppressors!**

Let the king live as long as the sun,
as long as the moon,
generation to generation.

**Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

**Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives,
and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.**

Let the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute;
let the kings of Sheba and Seba present gifts.

**Let all the kings bow down before him;
let all the nations serve him.**

Let it be so, because he delivers the needy who cry out,
the poor, and those who have no helper.

**He has compassion on the weak and the needy;
he saves the lives of those who are in need.**

**He redeems their lives from oppression and violence;
their blood is precious in his eyes.**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (Common English Bible)

(page 2 in the pew Bible, page 1170 Common English Bible)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sung Response: GTG 151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" vs. 1, 2, & 5

Sermon: "Searching Strangers"

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Prayers of the People

Arnold L.	Gib D.	Marie L.
Bob & Ollive B.	Carol D.	Pass Family
Brian C.	Pete D.	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Jesse F.	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Corinne C.	Stu K.	Paul W.
Danielle B.	Joan K.* (Marcus A. mom)	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Darren B.	Kathy A* (Kevin B sister)	Sherry M.
Dick and Maryann*	Liam A.	Steven B.* (Kevin B nephew)
Elias B* (Laurie C grandson)	Lynn M.	Vern A.* (Debra S dad)

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know wants added to our prayer list, contact a Deacon or church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

We Respond to God's Word

Moment for Mission: Alternative Gift Fair

Serving Team

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

We have seen the light of the world. We have been called to follow the star of promise. Like the Magi, let us bring our gifts to honor the babe of Bethlehem and bring the light to all the dark places in our community and our world.

Offering Music: "Three Kings of Orient"

arr. by Robin Dinda

***Offertory: GTG 145 "What Child is This" vs. 3**

***Offertory Prayer**

As long-ago travelers laid their gifts before the Christ child, we too bring our gifts with great joy. God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. Amen.

***Sending Hymn: GTG 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

***Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

***Charge and Benediction**

The light of God's love shines before you as you leave this place.
Go forth, following the star that will guide you on your journey.
Meet God's people in the world and greet them with the good news of salvation.
AMEN.

Postlude: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

arr. by J. Bert Carlson

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 05, 2025

Individuals in Person: 87

Zoom Households: 05

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
01/05/2025	\$1175.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$30.00	Special Offerings
12/30-1/3/25	\$6687.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	472.00	Special Offerings
	<u>\$8364.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org Giving page. (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

GETTING CONNECTED:

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YouTube
[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondduLac)

January

Deacon of the Month:
Orv Kamphuis

Elder of the Month:
Mary Bacon

STAFF:
Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin
pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org
Jennifer Zander
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org
Kris Bartelt
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org
Mary Robotka
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm
11:30-1:00pm
6:00-7:30pm

January 12

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Fondy Food Pantry
Sunday School
Worship Team
PYA Lunch and Activities
Boy Scout Committee Mtg

Monday

10:00-11:30am

January 13

Staff Meeting

Tuesday

7:00-8:00pm

January 14

Feed My Starving Children Mtg

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
4:00-5:00pm
5:00-6:00pm

January 15

Men's Breakfast
Handbell Rehearsal
Confirmation Class

Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

January 16

GriefShare

Friday

7:00-8:00pm

January 17

Cribbage

Saturday

9:00-3:30pm

January 18

Sunset Stitchers Guild

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:45pm
1:00-2:00pm
6:00-7:30pm

January 19

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Ghost Ranch
Sunday School
PYA Lunch and Activities
PYA at the Woodlands
Boy Scout Troop Meeting