

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.

If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.



Children of God, welcome home!

*Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices
to honor the sanctity of our worship.*

For our worshippers with little ones needing a quiet space during the worship service, there is an infant and caregiver room off the Narthex. If you have any questions, please notify an usher.



For our worshipers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.

** Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

THE TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* J.L. Krebs
Samuel Libra, organ

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

11 a.m. INTROIT *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J. Schop, arr. J.S. Bach
The Sanctuary Choir

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.
Johann Rist, trans. John Troutbeck

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT
vs. 1: all singing
vs. 2: women sing verse, all sing refrain
vs. 3: men sing verse, all sing refrain
vs. 4: all singing

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

**Merciful God, Light of the World,
We confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin.
You deliver the poor and the helpless,
But we have ignored their cry.
You take pity on the weak and the destitute,
But our hearts are hard in the face of their need.
You heal the wounded and save the oppressed,
But we have placed our trust in callous violence of war.
Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance
That we may shine with the light of your saving grace.**

Time for silent prayer

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are welcome to come forward to the center;
they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

11 a.m.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60:1–6

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 2:1–12

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The True Eternal Flame

Rev. Steve Jester

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website. You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



ANTHEM

The First Nowell arr. David Willcocks

Text may be found at Hymn 147. Congregation sings vs. 6 when directed:

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *read responsively*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right... to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty...dedicated to your service.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God...now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *read in unison*

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *O Nata Lux (from Lux Aeterna)* Morton Lauridsen
The Octet of the Sanctuary Choir

Translation: O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SHARING GRACE

The Sending

*HYMN 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE *March on "What Star Is This"* Norman Dello Joio

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.
You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.*

In Worship Today

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is "The Word of Life." Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God's seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is "The Font of Identity." The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is "The Table of Sustenance."

THE ROSE in the Chancel (11:00) is given in gratitude for and celebration of the birth of Micah Glenn Bowman, born on December 20, 2023 to parents Andrew Bowman and Megan Bannerman.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given in loving Memory of Eleanore Nickerson by her daughter and son-in-law Valerie and Ernie Dreher.

USHERS

8:30 Peter and Lorrie Conway

11 Gene and Connie Smith, Patrice Paton, John and Bonnie Stone, Jane Roth

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Steve Jester, preacher; Lorie Williamson & Rev. Jordan Akin, liturgists;
Wilson Masick, 11 a.m. lay reader.

The Octet (8:30) and the Sanctuary Choir (11); Jim Rittenhouse, Director;
Dr. Samuel Libra, Organist

Evan Vivic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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We Lift Up in Prayer

Vic, Gordon, and Verser Engelhard and their families on the death of their mother, Harriet, 12/29/23.

Stuart and Jennifer Ferguson and their family on the death of their sister-in-law, Barbara Ferguson, 12/24/23.

Camille and Bob Williams-Neal and their family on the death of Bob's brother, Ray Davis, 12/22/23.

Martha Spencer and her family on the death of her sister, Fuchsia Nelson, 12/18/23.

Joyce Reibling and her family on the death of her husband, Walter Reibling, 12/17/23.

LaMar Gaston, Joan Gaston, Page Penna, and their family on the death of LaMar's son, Mark, 11/24/23.

The family of David Shipp on his death, 11/15/23.

Sue Rogers and her family on the death of her father, O.D., 11/8/23.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

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!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

As with Gladness Men of Old 150

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

The Ministry Team

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