

Epiphany Sunday

*Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged,
diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*

****Those who are able, please stand**

 **Prelude** "Concerto in A Minor" by Antonio Vivaldi

 **Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Dr. Sue Collier
Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others in your row, return it to the center aisle, and tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.

 **Choral Introit** "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year" Alfred Fedak
*Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.
This Jesus came to end sin's war; this name of names for us he bore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.*

 **Call to Worship** Paul Smith
One: We gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"
All: *We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.*
One: We gather asking, "Where will we find the Child of Christmas?"
All: *We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.*
One: We gather wanting to know, "Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"
All: *We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.*

 ***HYMN #150** "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX
(verses 1-3)

 **Call to Reconciliation** Paul Smith

 **Silent Prayer**

 **Prayer of Confession**
God of all our hopes, we search for your light, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, and fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us for being so foolish as to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope instead of a destination; who found grace instead of gratitude; who found salvation instead of a sign. As we journey with Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church is a living ministry of the Risen Christ in the heart of Lincoln.

*We praise God through worship
We live our beliefs through mission*

*We strengthen faith through study
We nurture a diverse community*



Assurance of Pardon

One: Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

All: *This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God!*



**The Peace

One: Knowing that we are forgiven, let us be at peace within ourselves and be seekers of peace with one another. The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: *And also with you.*

Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.



**Song of Joy #314

“Christ, Be Our Light” vs. 1

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*



Prayer for Illumination



First Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

(OT—Blue Bible pg.109, Red Bible pg. 116)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*



Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

(NT—Blue Bible pg. 86, Red Bible pg. 91)



Sermon

Seeing Christ

Rev. Dr. Sue Coller



*Hymn (insert)

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”
(verses 1-3)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



Ordination and Installation of Elders

Ordained and Installed: Janna Loehr, Jennifer Koolen

Installed: Phil Waldron, Nate Van Meter, Nancy Field, Leann Hammar



The Offering

*Please place the top sheet of the friendship pad in the offering plate
Text MissionPossible to 73256 to give by text*



Prayer of Dedication



Offertory

“I Love to Tell the Story”

setting by Emma Lou Diemer

The Sacrament of Communion



Invitation

One: People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: People of Christmas, lift up your hearts!

All: **We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us!**

One: People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God!

All: **We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem!**



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer begins ...

One: Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns!**

All creation renders tributes of praise to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy.

Hosanna in the highest!

The Prayer continues ...

One: So, as we remember his birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

All: **Christ came, the morning star of love;**

Christ died, the night star of salvation;

Christ arose, the radiant star of resurrection;

Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.



Words of Institution



Sharing the Gifts

Please eat the bread and drink the cup as they are passed through the pews. Bread is gluten and corn free. Welch's Grape Juice is served in the cups. All are welcome to share the feast of communion. Christ welcomed all who came – and so do we.



Distribution

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star” setting by Dietrich Buxtehude



Prayer of Sending

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.



**Hymn #156

“Sing of God Made Manifest”

SALZBURG

(verses 1-3)



Charge & Benediction

One: Now, God sends us out by a different road.

All: *So we may find those who have been left by the side of the world.*

One: Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

All: *So we may serve those who are lonely and frightened.*

One: Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

All: *So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand to walk in wonder and grace.*

One: And I know you will, for you are

All: *The Salt of the Earth*

One: You are...

All: *The Light of the World*

One: You are ...

All: *The People of God*

One: And God goes with you.



Postlude

“We Three Kings”

arr. Brian Pfofner

The choir will sing two verses of the hymn, then, on cue,
the congregation will join on two verses as printed below.

*Vs. 3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Vs. 4 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!*

(You are invited to remain seated for the Postlude or exit quietly)
The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession Assurance of Pardon, and (adapted)
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving ©2017 by Thom M. Shuman

Greeters:

Pam Carrier

Ushers:

Jerry Philippi, Karl Tilinghast, Deb Buchholz,
Sona Buchholz and Connie Philippi.

Sunday Morning Drivers:

Pam Boyle, Nancy Field, Lynne Hughes,
Nancy Janike, Betty Tenhulzen

TV/Editing Crew:

Linda Brodzik, Jim DeFrain, Debbie DeFrain, Steve Hill
Shannon Janike, Paul Jasa, Tyler Knoche, Paul Smith

TV/Editing Crew Youth Volunteers:

Olivia Diedrichsen, Owen Hill

Pastor/Head of Staff:

Rev. Dr. Sue Collier

Pastor of Sudanese Ministry:

Rev. Jock Tut Peleak

Director of Music:

Dr. Brian Pfofner

Director of Christian Education:

Kris Brammer

Organist:

Dr. Charles W. Ore