

January 4, 2026



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

Communion Sunday – 10:45 am

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude: *"We Three Kings"*
arr. John Turner

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry
guest pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make God's face to shine upon us.

People: Let all the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You!

Leader: May God's way be known upon the earth, God's saving power among all nations.

People: Let all the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You!

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for God judges and guides with equity.

People: The earth has yielded its increase; let all the ends of the earth praise God.

Leader: Amen.

ALL: AMEN. Let us worship God together this Sabbath morning.

***Hymn #118:** *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"* (located in this bulletin)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, whom we have obeyed only when it is convenient to do so, hear our cries and lift up Your countenance to bless us. We have neglected Your law and turned away from Your love. We worship the Babe of Bethlehem but deny the adult Jesus of Nazareth. Our doubts and fears mire us in questions without answers and in pondering without praise. Free us to see promise in a manger and blessing on every hand. You are at work within and among us. Help us to cooperate with Your purposes. through Christ. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:1-10

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ² to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"Three Deadly Words"*

Rev. Merry

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

We 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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We 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.*

***Communion Hymn #151:** *"We Three Kings"* (located in this bulletin)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Music: *"Brightest and Best"*

based on the tune MORNING STAR. Mahlon Balderston

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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering (Online giving available, scan code on back)

Rev. Merry

Offertory: "I Dream of a World"

Mark Miller

Matt Sartore, *bass soloist*

*I dream of a world where everyone is welcome,
I dream of a place we all can call home.
I dream of a world where justice is flowing
with hope and peace growing,
where love's work is done.*

Chorus:

*Make it so, make it so!
We long for the day, make it so!
We dream of a world where peace reigns among us,
and love's work is done: may we make it so!*

*May love fill our hearts to reach out in welcome,
and help us to see our neighbors once more.
Let's dream of a world where my hand joins your hand,
working together, we must make it so.*

Chorus

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Merry

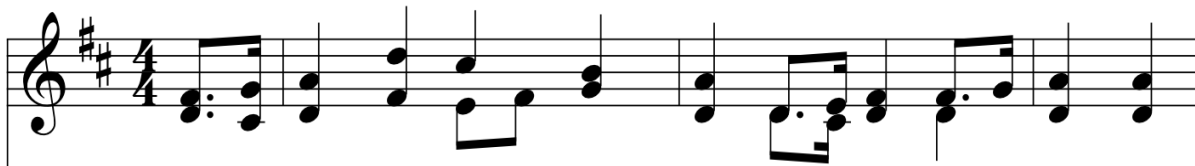
***Hymn #265: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"** (located in this bulletin)

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

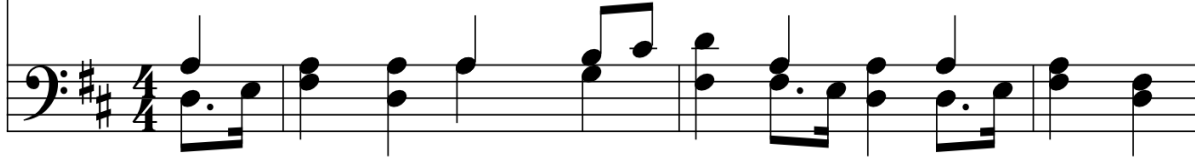
Postlude: "March of the Kings"

arr. Carl Simone

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of
4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man



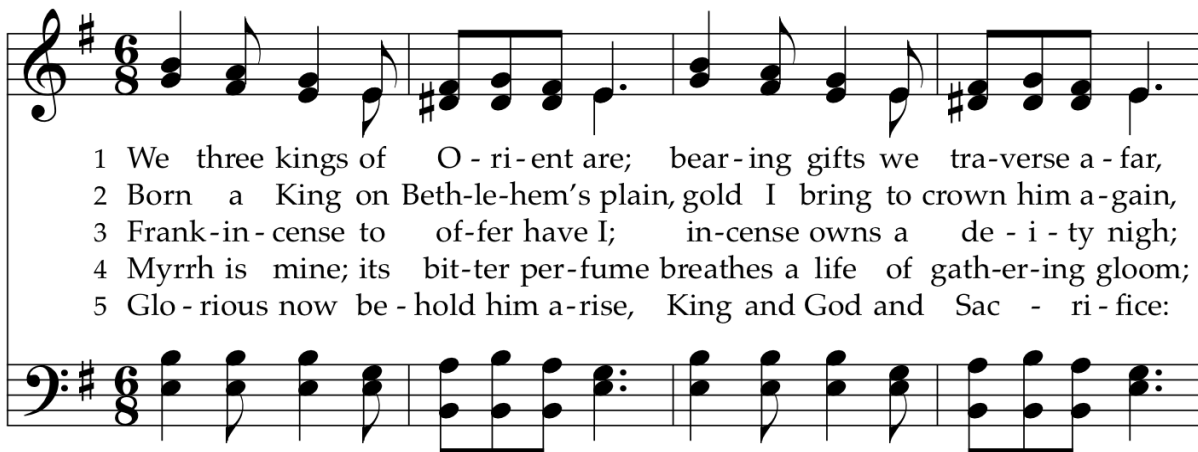
on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down, and
trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring to
Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and
view dis - played, all hum-bly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and




glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
you and hu - man - kind, to you and hu - man - kind.
this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."



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,

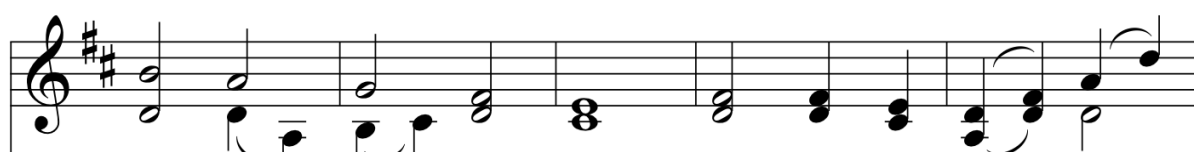


west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!


265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Welcome Back, Pastor Dan!

Today, we welcome back to the pulpit, Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry. Pastor Dan served as our interim pastor for ten months, before God called Pastor Craig Walls to First Church. We're grateful that Pastor Dan can fill in for Pastor Craig today.

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 am** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children are invited.

State of the Church – Sunday, January 11

On Sunday, January 11, Pastor Craig Walls' sermon will focus on the state of First Church. Come learn more about where we are and where God's plans are leading us.

Installation Service – Sunday, January 18

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls will be officially installed as the 16th senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh at worship on January 18. Representatives from the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be worshipping with us and Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister, will be delivering the sermon. Plan now to join us on this historic occasion.

New Sermon Series begins January 25

Beginning January 25, Pastor Craig will lead us through a series entitled: *"This Old House: Spiritual Renovation 2026"*. Plan now to join us, as together we explore where we are spiritually and how we can grow.

New Member Classes

Have you been visiting with us for a while and are perhaps considering joining First Church? Or, would you like to learn more about our ministry? If so, we are planning New Member classes for 2026 with the first taking place on January 25. Stay tuned for more details.

Birthday Blessings

Sylvia Sanders – January 4; Susan Quam – January 5

First Church Staff

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LaRon Pack
John Radford

**VOLUNTEER SOUND/
VIDEO TECHNICIANS**
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Doug Williams
Dan Conner
David Charlton
Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.