

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
EPIPHANY SUNDAY | 11:00 AM | JANUARY 7, 2024

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place
Lanny Wolfe

Elizabeth Alvarez
violin

INTROIT

Make a Joyful Noise
John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands, Serve the Lord with gladness,
Come before his presence with singing, Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 258

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

WAREHAM

*INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Rev. Lawrence and People

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

**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

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:
"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence

OFFERTORY

Brightest and Best
Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Shawn Kirchner

Chancel Choir
Elizabeth Alvarez, violin
Bill Nelms, bass

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.
Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
Brightest and best...

Shall we not yield him in costly devotion odours of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
Brightest and best...

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Lawrence

Children are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Drew West and **People**
Assistant Minister of Families and Children

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. West

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Bringing Our Best"

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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 trespasses, as we

forgive those who trespass 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering
on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.

*HYMN 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Short

*POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness from Orgelbuchlein
J.S. Bach

Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Nancy Byers
Richard Clayton
Karen Davis
Robbie Gray

Martha Hale
Don Harp
Tangie Hubbard
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin

Jerry Light
Nancy Ricciardi
Ingrid Shields
Brenda Tierman
Helen Voyles

Margaret Whitaker
Paul Wiley

In Memoriam
Ben Westberry
December 23, 2023

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with
Donna Westberry upon the death of her husband, Ben Westberry, on December 23.

The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the glory of God
and in memory of Steve McAdams from his wife, Charlotte McAdams.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



Online Giving: onrealm.org/FFUMC/give

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
Hymns: Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM
NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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