

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Welcome to worship!

We praise God for everyone who joins us in worshiping this weekend.

It is a blessing to worship God as part of a community of faith.

“And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod,
they returned to their country by another route.”

Matthew 2:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Henry Smart

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Psalm 96:1, 2

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;

People: **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Sing, and give praise to God's name;

People: **tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Merciful God, we praise You for letting us feel Your guidance in our lives. We praise You for the time when You warned the wise men to save the baby Jesus from King Herod. Help us to know Your leading, so that we can discern when it is the right time to help innocent people run from evil or temptation, and when it is the right time to stand and oppose the evil face to face. We praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #233

ōWe Three Kings of Orient Areö

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, You know our hearts. Would we look for You, as the Wise Men did, and even ask for directions if You were hard to find? Would we risk looking eager in a room full of cool people for Your sake? Would we offer You our treasures when others were coming to You empty handed? Would we worship You if the people around us didn't know You were God? How wise are we, really?

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Psalm 65:2-3

Leader: O You who hear prayer, to You will all people come.

People: When we were overwhelmed by sins, You forgave our transgressions.

*GLORIA PATRI

Avery & Marsh

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible p. 602

SECOND READING

Psalm 72:1, 10-14

Pew Bible p. 464

THIRD READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

Pew Bible p. 950

CHILDREN'S TIME

Prayer requests will be collected following The Children's Time

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible p. 783

MEDITATION

Rev. Martha Carlson

WE RESPOND TO GOD

*HYMN #234

ōWise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdomö

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

ApostlesøCreed

I 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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE: the victims and their families of the terrorist attack in New Orleans, all the people suffering in the Middle East, the people of Ukraine, Amanda, Anne, Bruce R., Debra V.ø mother, Donnie S., Edd C., FPCW, family & friends of Jill F., Jim P., rest in peace President Jimmy Carter, Claire & Jack, Kathy D., Kaye B., Kim & Mike N., Linda R., Mary N., Martha B., Nancy B., Nancy P., Natalie C., Peggy W., Sabine P., nurses & caregivers of Sonya H. in Hospice, Sue H., Sue R.- in hospice care, Zacharyeus, the family of Zachary C., and the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially Marine Riley Bray-Jones, Ashley Sabo-National Guard, Ben Clark-U.S. Navy, SSG Michael Grounds, LC Michael Haub, Airman Frank Terry-Air Force. Also in our prayers this week are: Smithfield PC Amenia, First Church Ancramdale, Epiphany of the Lord (1/06).

THE OFFERING

It is important that we offer ourselves to God, with or without the physical symbols of offering, because it is in the using of our gifts that we serve God.

Financial offerings may be mailed to the church. The churchø mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER FOR DEDICATION (unison)

We offer our gifts to you, Lord, with grateful, cheerful hearts. Thank you that you meet our needs on the journey, providing what we need when we need it. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, and we do this joyfully, together, today, in Jesus` name, Amen.

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN #229 (v. 3, 5, 6)

öThe First Noelö

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

í we lift our hearts in joyful praise, for You alone are holy:

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.

í Great is the mystery of faith:

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

í now and forever. **Amen.**

And now let us say together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray... öOur Father....”

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

öWhile Child is This?ö

John Sumner

BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

O God, You call us from death to life. We give ourselves to You, and, with the Church in all the ages, we thank You for Your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

WE TAKE GOD’S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING HYMN #236

öAs with Gladnessö

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (please be seated)

öAuld Lang Syneö

Traditional

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Isaiah mentions kings and camels. What are the camels bringing? Where are they from?

Do the kings own the camels?

Who is the king's son in the Psalm?

Whom does the Psalmist hope the king's son will judge? Whom will he deliver? Whom will he crush?

Whom does the Psalmist hope will give the king's son gifts and why is that important?

What do we definitely know the king's son does?

What hidden secret has God revealed in the time of Paul? What does it have to do with the wise men?

What do we definitely know about the wise men?

Do ordinary stars pick particular houses to shine on?

What does the story of the wise men mean for us?

Join the people who are reading the Bible-in-a-year readings. This week's Bible readings are:

Sunday: Genesis 12-13; Monday: Genesis 14-15; Tuesday: Genesis 16-17; Wednesday: Genesis 18-19; Thursday: Genesis 21-22; Friday: Genesis 23-24; Saturday: Genesis 25-26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Choices to communicate PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Send your prayer requests to Lois via email: lmbd9999@gmail.com. There are currently 42 persons in our e-Prayer Circle who are notified of prayer requests. Cynthia will add names from e-prayer requests to the weekly prayer list.

2. During Sunday worship services, fill out a prayer request card or verbalize your request at prayer time. The cards will be collected immediately following The Children's Time.

God does hear and answer our prayers! Thank you, God!

Prayer requests from worship services and from e-Prayer Circle will be put on our weekly prayer list and remain on the list for 30 days, unless requested otherwise.

Snow Cancellation – Our church cancellation policy during the winter months is to evaluate weather conditions on a case by case basis to determine if church closure is advisable for the safety of our congregation. The church's answering machine will have a message about closure. Our website will have a special notice on the front page. A group email will be sent and phone calls will be made to members of our congregation who do not have computers or do email.

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00.

Call the manse phone any time at 845-614-0048, or email Martha at

revmpc86@yahoo.com or text Martha at 845-260-2273.

The church office (845-496-3814)

will be open only as needed until further notice.

Messages left on the answering machine and emails sent to

fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com will be checked regularly.

The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

The church's website is fpcw.makeswebsites.com

The church Facebook page is First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville.

Questions, comments, discussion group on Facebook is

Washingtonville First Presbyterian Church.