

# *Epiphany*



Park Cities  
Presbyterian Church  
January 5, 2025

*The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion;  
others die martyrs but Christ was born a martyr.  
He found a Golgotha even in Bethlehem,  
where He was born;  
for to His tenderness then  
the straws were almost as sharp  
as the thorns after,  
and the manger as uneasy at first as His cross at last.  
His birth and His death were but one continual act,  
and His Christmas Day and His Good Friday  
are but the evening and morning  
of one and the same day.  
And as even His birth is His death,  
so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us  
is His birth, for Epiphany is manifestation.*

— John Donne (1572-1631)

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 5, 2025  
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

## *Epiphany Sunday*

*Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Our word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation or appearance,” and in church history this word has become closely associated with the revelation of Christ in connection with the visit of the Magi. In this “manifestation,” light and illumination are a reoccurring theme, reflected today in the liturgy.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Sam Leopold

### **The Prelude**

8:00

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”  
Mary Preston, *organ*

*George Th. Miles*

9:30/11:00

“Behold That Star!”  
John Adams, *bass* • J. Marty Cope, *piano*

*Traditional Spiritual*  
*arr. Shackley*

### **\*Call to Worship**

Minister: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims  
His handiwork.

**People:** Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals  
knowledge.

Minister: There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

**People:** Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to  
the end of the world. In them He has set a tent for the sun.

Psalms 19.1-4



And — by — the — light of the East - ern Star three  
 Then en - tered in those — Wise Men three, full —  
 Then let — us — all with — one ac - cord sing



Wise — Men came — from coun - try far; To —  
 rev - 'rent - ly — up - on — their knee, and  
 prais - es to — our heav - 'nly Lord that



seek — for a King was their in - tent, And to  
 of - fered — there in — His — pres - ence their —  
 hath — made heav'n and earth of naught, and —



fol - low the star — wher - ev - er it went.  
 gold, — and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.  
 with — His blood man - kind — hath bought.



*Refrain*  
 No - el, — No - el, No - el, No - el!



Born is the King — of Is - ra - el.

**\*Prayer of Adoration concluding with**

**Almighty Lord God,**

**You gave Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world:**

**We praise and magnify Your holy name that in Him**

**You have revealed the wonder of Your saving love to all people.**

**With those of old who brought their tribute to His feet,**

**confessing Him as King of heaven and earth,**

**we now present the worship of our grateful hearts,**

**asking You to give us grace to give ourselves to You,**

**through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn No. 226 in the Trinity Hymnal



1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing  
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly  
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that cra - dle  
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the  
 5. In the heav'n - ly count - try bright need they no cre -



star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,  
 cra - dle - bed, there to bend the knee be - fore  
 rude and bare; so may we with ho - ly joy,  
 nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,  
 at - ed light; Thou its light, its joy, its crown,



lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright; so most gra - cious  
 Him whom heav'n and earth a - dore; so may we with  
 pure, and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest  
 bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no  
 Thou its sun which goes not down; there for - ev - er



God, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.  
 will - ing feet ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.  
 trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.  
 star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.  
 may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

## Public Confession of Sin

The Rev. Tommy Overton

Almighty and merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned  
 against You and one another  
 in both our actions and our inactions.

We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come,  
 yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light.

Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us  
 the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives.

Illumined by Your Word and sacrament,  
 may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

## Private Confession

## Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1.5-7

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

## Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Overton

*In addition to giving via passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at [pcpc.org/give](http://pcpc.org/give) or text "give" to 214-833-7724.*

## Musical Offering

8:00

"Let All Together Praise Our God  
Who Gives Us His Own Son"  
Mrs. Preston, organ

J. C. Bach/J. S. Bach

9:30/11:00

"Brightest and Best"  
Chancel Choir

Southern Harmony  
arr. Shawn Kirchner

Mr. Adams, bass • Stephen Nielson, piano • Mr. Cope, conducting

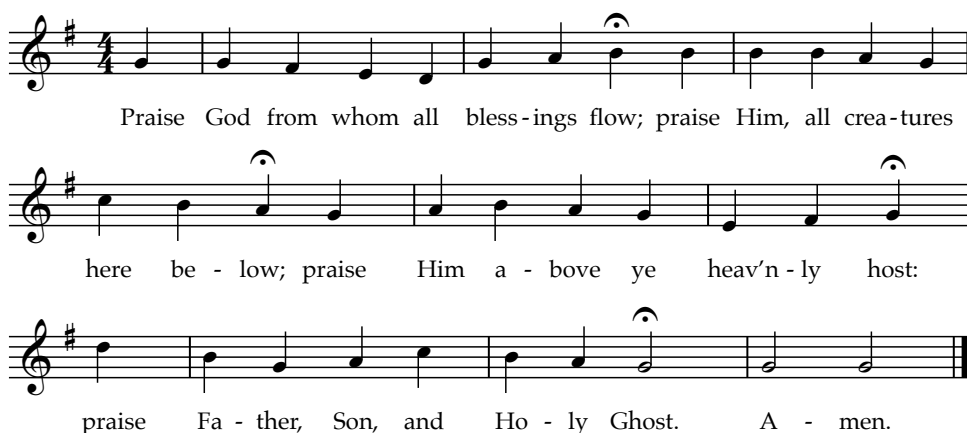
*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our pathway and lend us your aid. Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Shall we give Jesus our costly devotion, fragrance of Edom and offerings divine, gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts Jesus' favor secure. Richer by far is the heart's adoration. Dear to God are the gifts of the poor.*

## \*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Him, all crea-tures  
here be - low; praise Him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host:  
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Worship Explorers will not meet today,  
and we encourage families to worship together.*

*Zest Quests are available so your children can follow along with the sermon.*

**\*The Scripture Reading: Matthew 2.1-12**

Mr. Leopold 8:00  
Celeste and Steve Tenpenny 9:30  
Casa del Lago  
Jenn and Conrad Quiros 11:00  
Reformed University Fellowship

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,*  
<sup>2</sup> *saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”*  
<sup>3</sup> *When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;*  
<sup>4</sup> *and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.*  
<sup>5</sup> *They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*  
<sup>6</sup> *‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.’”*  
<sup>7</sup> *Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.*  
<sup>8</sup> *And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.”*  
<sup>9</sup> *After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was.*  
<sup>10</sup> *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*  
<sup>11</sup> *And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*  
<sup>12</sup> *And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

**Sermon**

“The Ultimate Light: Wisdom for the Nations”

Mr. Leopold

*Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please continue at the closing hymn.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

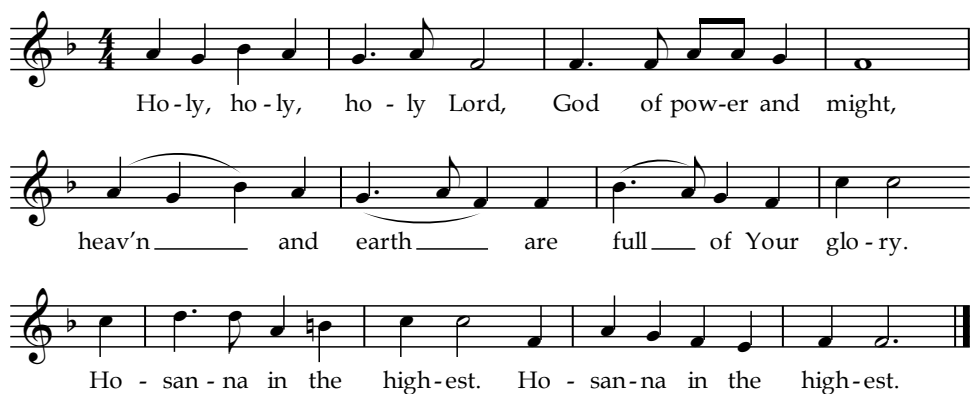
**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

**People: Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name; evermore praising You, and singing:**



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry.  
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

**\*The Words of Institution 8:00**

**Communion 8:00**

*Please remain seated.  
 You will be served by your elders, and we will all partake  
 together when so instructed by the pastor.  
 (The bread being served is gluten free.)*

**\*Closing Hymn**

**"Amazing Grace!"**

**AMAZING GRACE**



1. A-maz-ing grace how sweet the sound that  
 2. Thro' man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I  
 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His  
 4. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright  
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 have al-read-y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 Word my hope se-cures; He will my shield and  
 shin-ing as the sun, we've no less days to  
 now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por-tion be, as long as life en-dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we've first be-gun!



**\*The Benediction**

Minister: May Christ, the Son of God,  
be manifest in you,  
that your lives may be a light to the world;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**The Postlude**

8:00	“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Mrs. Preston, <i>organ</i>	<i>Andreas Armsdorff</i>
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9:30/11:00	“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” Mr. Cope, <i>organ</i>	<i>WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET</i>
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*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the glory of God  
by Tara and Scott Neumann in celebration of the first birthday of their daughter,  
Ann Frances. We thank God for her life and the joy she brings to ours.*



**Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists to extend the  
transforming presence of the Kingdom of our  
Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas and to the world.**

## **SERMON NOTES**

Matthew 2.1-12

“The Ultimate Light: Wisdom for the Nations”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.*

1. Read Isaiah 9.1-4. What is the prophet Isaiah referring to when he speaks of "deep darkness"?
2. How does the context of 400 years of prophetic silence add significance to how we read this text today? Where are we tempted to fall into unbelief when we feel that God is being silent?
3. Why was King Herod and all of Jerusalem troubled that the wisemen wanted to worship the Messiah?
4. What do the wisemen represent in the original context of the Christmas story? Pondering the light of Jesus shining in the darkness, what wisdom is our darkness, and how does Jesus' light shine on it?
5. What is the wisdom of the world in which you are most tempted to replace the wisdom God has given us in Jesus?
6. The wise man "fell down and worshipped Him...they offered Him gifts..." How does this response warm our hearts to how we should respond to Jesus' presence in our lives?

# Highlights

JANUARY 5, 2025

## What's Next?

We have friendly faces waiting to help you connect to Christ and one another at PCPC just as you exit the front of the Sanctuary. Look for the Connect banner on your way to the Grand Hall. We would also love to help you abide in and extend Christ. You can find out more at the Information Center in the Grand Hall. Download the free PCPC mobile app to explore more.

## Connection Card

Thanks for joining us today! If you are new or looking to connect at our church, please scan the QR code and fill out our Connection Card, so we can know you were here and help you connect.

[pcpc.org/connect](https://pcpc.org/connect)



## City Missions Expo

*Sunday, January 5*

10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for this come-and-go event to learn what God has done, is doing, and will do through our City Missions Partners. We hope to see you there!

[pcpc.org/events](https://pcpc.org/events)

## 60+ Community Fellowship

*Friday, January 10*

11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL A/B

Rob Rucker invites you to journey through the prophet's poem we call Psalm 90.

Please make your reservation for lunch no later than Tuesday, January 7, by 12-noon.

[pcpc.org/events](https://pcpc.org/events)

## New Members Class

*Sundays beginning January 12*

9:30 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Is the Lord calling you to be a member of PCPC? Our New Members Class gives you the opportunity to explore that question as we discuss our church's beliefs, vision, and mission. Register today!

[pcpc.org/membership](https://pcpc.org/membership)

## Communicants Class Parent Intro Meeting

*Sundays, January 12 or 19*

11:00 A.M. | CHAPEL

This spring, PCPC will offer communicant classes for children and youth who are interested in full communing membership and ready to be admitted to the Lord's Table. There is a required parent intro meeting on either January 12 or 19. Registration is open.

[pcpc.org/worship/communicants](https://pcpc.org/worship/communicants)

## 2025 Spring Kickoff

*Launching January 12-17*

Register for classes as we abide in Christ and connect with one another:

- Grief Support Group
- Men, Women, & Couple's Bible Studies
- Middle & High School Small Groups
- UNION Pre-Marriage Class (February)

[pcpc.org/calendar](https://pcpc.org/calendar)

[pcpc.org/guide](https://pcpc.org/guide)

## Special Events at PCPC

*The Gathering (High School)*

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8 | 7:15 P.M. | THE LOFT

*All-Church Prayer*

SUNDAY, JAN. 12 | 4:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

*Preschool Song & Story*

FRIDAY, JAN. 17 | 10:00 A.M. | PRESCHOOL AREA

*Young Adult Solitude Saturday*

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 | 8:00 A.M. | GRAND HALL

*Missionary Luncheon for Hill & Deboer*

SUNDAY, JAN. 19 | 12:30 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

[pcpc.org/calendar](https://pcpc.org/calendar)

## PARK CITIES

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4124 Oak Lawn Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75219

[pcpc.org](https://pcpc.org)

Social: [@parkcitiespca](https://www.instagram.com/parkcitiespca)

App: [pcpc.org/app](https://pcpc.org/app)

Church Office: 214-224-2500

Pastoral Concerns: 214-224-2742

or [pastorsprayer@pcpc.org](mailto:pastorsprayer@pcpc.org)

24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

or [24-7prayer@pcpc.org](mailto:24-7prayer@pcpc.org)

Sermon Archives: [pcpc.org/sermons](https://pcpc.org/sermons)

Deep Light Podcast: [pcpc.org/deeplight](https://pcpc.org/deeplight)

Every Thought Captive: [etcdev.org](https://etcdev.org)

## GIVE ONLINE

You may scan the QR code to give online at [pcpc.org/give/](https://pcpc.org/give/).



Download the PCPC

App with iOS or Android device where you can give online (including setting up recurring gifts).

## GENERAL FUND

2024/2025 Operating Budget \$17,200,000

Jul 1, 2024-Dec 22, 2024 Budget \$9,117,426

Jul 1, 2024-Dec 22, 2024 Giving \$7,129,517

Budget Variance (\$1,987,909)