

The Lord's Service

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Isaiah 49:7

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

SILENT PRAYER

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† SALUTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 72:1-5

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 457: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you: Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and our neighbors. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and of your great goodness grant that we may serve you in newness of life; through the mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE PEACE

† GLORIA PATRI (with hands lifted)

**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.**

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 441: "Jesus Shall Reign"

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the Word of our God will stand forever!

Isaiah 40:8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 72, NO. 439:** "Christ Shall Have Dominion"

† **GOSPEL READING:** **Matthew 2:1-12** (sermon text)

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD:

Light for the World

1. The Magi and the Star (vv. 1-2)

2. Herod's Response (vv. 3-8)

3. The Worship (vv. 9-12)

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 He suffered and was buried;
 and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
 and He shall come again, with glory,
 to judge both the living and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together
 is worshiped and glorified;
 who spoke by the prophets;
 and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
 we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
 and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen. **catholic=universal*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (with hands lifted)

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

GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

† SURSUM CORDA

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 good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

† SANCTUS

Sung in unison

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav'n and earth are full__of your Glo - ry. Ho

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he__ who_ comes__

in__ the name of the Lord our God. Ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the High - est.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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. And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ
Communion Meditation Silence
Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ
Communion Song, NO. 426: "'Till He Come'!"**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 226: "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

† **BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24-26**

**The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**