

United Presbyterian Church
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January 4, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Open the Eyes of My Heart/Amazing Grace*

Call to Worship Janet DeGroff, Lay Reader

Grace to you and peace in the new year.

We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God's own people.

**Gathering Song We Three Kings of Orient Are 151*

*We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.*

(Refrain:)

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God Most High.
(Refrain:)*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying, sealed in a stone-cold tomb.*
(Refrain)

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Al-le-lu-ia ! Al-le-lu-ia ! sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of love and compassion, you have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri *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.*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Scripture. Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Pew Bible, Page 560

7 For thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
 "Save, O Lord, your people,
 the remnant of Israel."

8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
 those with child and those in labor together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations[a] I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
 and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.[b]
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Special Music *O Worship the King* Woody Johnson, horn

Scripture John 1: 1-18 Pew Bible, Page 750

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.[e] 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who[f] is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Message

The Power of Incarnation

Rev. Melana Scruggs

Responding Song: *Come to the Table of Grace*

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*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

Come to the table of peace ...

Come to the table of love ...

Come to the table of hope ...

Come to the table of joy ...

Receiving our Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

Sending Song *As With Gladness Men of Old* 150

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped, Savior to thy lowly bed,
to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

there

so

*As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

*so
all our*

*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last.
they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

*and
where*

*Blessing

Postlude *Break Forth into Joy*