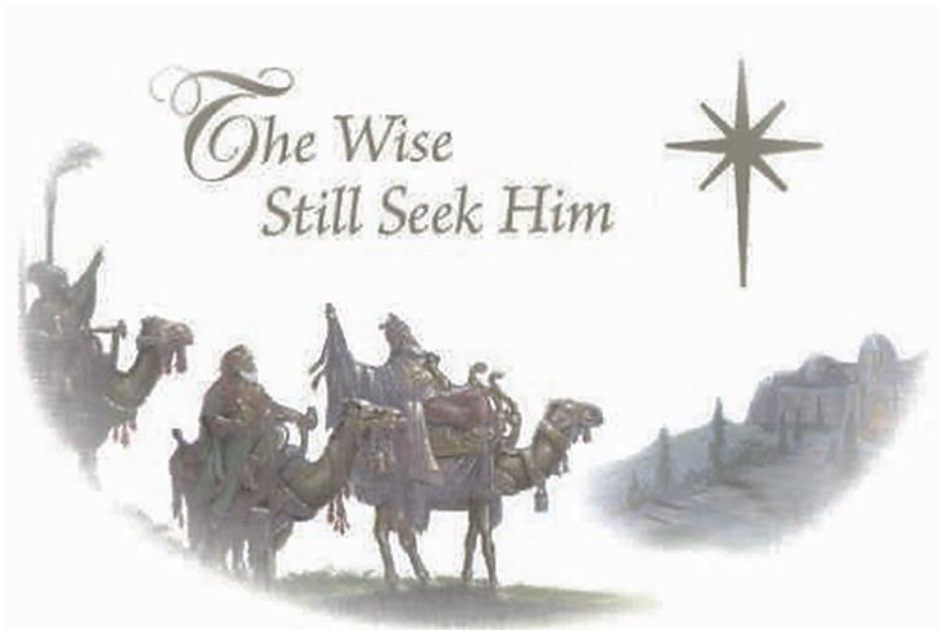


# First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue  
New Orleans, La. 70125

**January 7, 2024**

*Epiphany Observed/Communion*



# First Presbyterian Church

## Epiphany Observed/Communion

January 7, 2024

11:00 am

Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.

\*Please stand as you are able.

\*Please silence your phones during worship service.\*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

#### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 72)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**People: Who alone does wondrous things.**

Leader: Blessed be his glorious name forever.

**People: May his glory fill the whole earth.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 401 “Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Even if our personal world seems dark this day, know that Jesus offers light and life to all. Let us come to God in prayer.

#### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*Silent Prayer*

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Ephesians 5:8)

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light. Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

**Response: And also with you!**

# HEARING THE WORD

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (GtG 700 vs. 1) "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

**"I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!"**

ANTHEM        "The Star Carol"        Alfred Burt

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (pgs. 777-778)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

### SERMON SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:19-22 (pg. 597)

Pastor: The word of the Lord

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

SERMON        "A Season of Light"        Rev. Kathleen Crighton

\*HYMN 377        "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

# SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## MUSICAL OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY        Avery & Marsh

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## COMMUNION LITURGY

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...  
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**(All sing:)**

***Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.***

***Holy is the Father, Holy is the Son,***

***Holy is the Spirit, Blessed Three in One.***

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord...

Great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Leader: Let us say what we believe, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**The Apostles' Creed** (*p. 35 in Glory to God hymnal*)

**The Lord's Prayer**

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.**

\*HYMN 192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining"

\*BENEDICTION

Yes, the Saints are playing the Falcons today at noon. But if you can, please stay for a few minutes after the service to help take down the Christmas tree and the swag from the choir loft. And if you don't have your very own poinsettia, here's your last chance! There will be king cake for all!

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## LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

**PREACHING:** Rev. Kathleen Crighton

**LITURGIST:** elder, Lydia Pollard

**PIANIST:** Amanda Wadsworth

**CHILDRENS MOMENT:** Rev. Kathleen Crighton

**OFFERING:** elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

**BELL RINGER:** deacon, David Rabinowitz

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### Ways you can support F.P.C. Homeless Outreach Ministry "The Program of Hope"

- Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month a monetary donation can be put into the offering plate, with that designation on the provided envelope.
- Seasonally appropriate clothing donations can be brought to the church office or on Wednesday mornings, please check with Diane Kleinfeldt if you have a large donation.
- **\*NEW\*** Amazon gift registry. All items can ship quickly with Amazon Prime and will be delivered to the Program of Hope director's home or to the church: [tinyurl.com/helphomelessnola](https://www.tinyurl.com/helphomelessnola) this link will be good through the end of January.

**We appreciate your generosity! Thank you!**

## FPCNO THIS WEEK

|                  |   |   |  |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 10am-11:30am<br>7pm-9pm                 | Baby music class<br>"Carrollton" AA Group                         | Room 208<br>Fellowship Hall                    |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9am-12pm<br>10am-11:30am<br>7pm-9pm     | POH sorting day<br>Baby music class<br>"Big Easy" AA Group        | Sanctuary<br>Room 208<br>Fellowship Hall       |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9am-10:30am<br>10am-11:30am             | Program of Hope<br>Baby music class                               | Sanctuary<br>Room 208                          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10am-11:30am<br>7pm-8pm                 | Baby music class<br>MCC   | Room 208<br>Fellowship Hall                    |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 10am-11:30am                            | Baby music class  | Room 208                                       |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 10am -10:45am<br>10am-11am<br>11am-12pm | FPC Adult Bible Study<br>MCC Sunday Service<br>FPC Sunday Service | Conference Rm.<br>Fellowship Hall<br>Sanctuary |



## Prayer List

Please pray for these  
Individuals and their families.



Dave Rabinowitz's sister **Dani Tracey** and his mother **Eleanore Valek**.

**Prayers for Israel.** Prayers for those who have lost loved ones. Prayers for people in the United States who may not feel safe from what is going on there.

**Blaise Bennett**, son of Amanda Williamson. Blaise is serving in The Army National Guard and has been deployed to Kuwait.

**Emily Ruppel**, FPCNO member attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

### RECOVERING

**George Cheatile; Linda Robertson; Tom Tatum; Sandra Sarr.**

**Ethan Horn**, son of Mike and Angela Horn and brother of Jack. Ethan had a horrific motor bike accident. Ethan is making progress, he has a long road ahead.

**Mike Wadsworth**, Amanda's dad, he is home recovering.

### ILLNESS

**Wilma and Donald Lejeune**, sister and brother-in-law of Linda Robertson, dealing with cancer.

**Marie**, friend of Pastor Kathy, going through chemo.

**Emily Cho**, Peter's 8-year-old niece, has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

**Marshal Fisher**, health issues.

**Laverne Manning**, Peter's mom's friend. She is in the hospital with Parkinson's.

**Bob Sarradet**, Canna's stepfather is having health issues.

**Martha Pearl Williamson**, Lamar's mother, health issues.

**Mahmoud Aslanbaigi**, Marjan's father has had cancer surgery on his face.

**Jennings Hutton**, Sherri Hutton's dad.

**Sandra Boling**, sister of Randy Boling.

### OUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY

**Nancy Wadsworth**, in a Nursing facility.

**Adrian (Tudy) Manson**, at her home.

**Linda Donato**' assisted living, Sherri Hutton's mom.

### DEATHS

**Robert Pollard**, brother of Lydia Pollard and uncle of Canna.

**Frank Cardaronella**, brother of Mary Frances Brashears.

**James Bailey Henderson Jr.**, Cheryl's brother, and Chris's uncle.

**Dot Pollard**, Lydia's Aunt and Canna's great-aunt.



# WELCOME VISITORS!

## We Are Glad You Are Here

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and/or sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are.
- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- During the time of the passing of the peace, some may be comfortable with hugs, laughs, and conversation, but others may not. Please be respectful of one another's comfort levels. If you would prefer to maintain a social distance, you may pass the peace by folding your arms, making a peace sign, or whatever is comfortable for you.
- **Great news!** We have resumed having coffee available in the narthex before, during, and after worship. Big thanks to our elder, Henry Kleinfeldt for preparing the coffee! We are also offering snacks. Feel free to donate your favorite kinds and leave them on the table beside the coffee fixings.
- We were the first "More Light" congregation in New Orleans and now are the first congregation to be a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in New Orleans. Which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. If you wish, you may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service. If you would like to use a credit card or PayPal to make a secure donation to the Program of Hope or the Capital Campaign, you can go to the church's website, [www.fpcno.org](http://www.fpcno.org) and click on the links on the right hand side of the home page.

EQUALITY



FOR ALL

Please like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/fpcno](https://facebook.com/fpcno) and also follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/fpcno](https://twitter.com/fpcno)!

We don't have an official church newsletter, but you can find updates on our Facebook page (above) and website, [www.fpcno.org](http://www.fpcno.org).

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

504-866-7409 \* FAX 504-910-4477

[WWW.FPCNO.ORG](http://WWW.FPCNO.ORG); [FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO](https://FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO); [TWITTER.COM/FPCNO](https://TWITTER.COM/FPCNO)

## WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

### PASTOR

REV. KATHLEEN CRIGHTON

[REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG](mailto:REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG)

### OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

CHERYL A. ROBERTS

[CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG](mailto:CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG)

### CHOIR DIRECTOR

MAY BALL

### MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; AMANDA WADSWORTH

### WEDDING COORDINATOR:

DEE BOLING

[WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG](mailto:WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG)

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

BRUCE MATHER

### WEBSITE TECHS:

TERRY RUPPEL; CARRIE FISHER

### TECH SUPPORT:

RICHARD TATUM

### SEXTONS:

VERONICA AND WALNICA GIPSON

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## THE SESSION

### CLERK OF SESSION

KEN ALLEN

### ASSISTANT CLERK OF SESSION

BRUCE MATHER

### CLASS OF 2023

KEN ALLEN

BRUCE ROBERTSON

### CLASS OF 2024

HENRY KLEINFELDT

LYDIA POLLARD

### CLASS OF 2025

BRUCE MATHER

CHRISTIE RUPPEL

### PROGRAM OF HOPE DIRECTOR

DIANE KLEINFELDT

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***This bulletin and all paper used at F.P.C.N.O. are recycled***