

First Presbyterian Church
Huntsville, Tennessee
The Epiphany of the Lord
December 31, 2017 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come:

People: The glory of the Lord rises upon you!

Leader: Alleluia! Our Savior comes to us!

People: Alleluia! Christ is born!

*Hymn 155 *There's a Song in the Air!*

*Prayer of the Day (said by all)

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illuminate our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Concerns of the Congregation

Message to the Children

*Hymn 162

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 60:1-6; **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14** (*p. 2, following*)

Ephesians 3:1-12; *Matthew 2:1-12

*Gloria Patri (#546)

Special Music

Sermon

Another Gift

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Litany for Epiphany (*p. 3, following*)

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology (#544)

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn 174

As With Gladness Men of Old

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

*indicates the congregation may stand

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

God, give your king judgment,

The son of the king your sense of what is right;

Help him judge your people

And do right for the powerless.

May mountains bear peace,

Hills bring forth justice.

May the king defend the poor,

And set their children free.

May he live as long as the sun,

As long as the moon, forever.

May he be like rain on a field,

Like showers that soak the earth.

May justice sprout in his time,

Peace till the moon is no more.

Kings from Tarshish and the islands

Will bring their riches to him.

Kings of Sheba, kings of Saba

Will carry gifts to him.

All kings will bow before him,

All the nations serve him.

He will rescue the poor at their call,

Those no one speaks for.

Those no one cares for

He hears and will save,

Save their lives from violence,

Lives precious in his eyes.

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Dear Members and Friends,

As we prepare for the new year, the Church invites you to prayerfully consider making a pledge of financial support for 2018. The benefits are many.

Yes, it's true that the missions and programs of the Church cost money - around \$10,000 per active family most years. It's also true that having some idea of expected resources helps the Session budget responsibly. But as important as these are, they pale in comparison to what pledging does for each of *us*.

Just as our bodies and minds need exercise to keep us healthy, our spirit needs exercise too. Prayerful pledging is an excellent form of *spiritual exercise*.

Pledging from faith says, "I may not know for sure *how* I can do this, but I have faith that God will help me each week." Confronting this challenge is a very effective *spiritual workout* -- one which builds personal and spiritual discipline, while helping accomplish God's work in our community and our world.

Please pledge today! You don't need to be a member. You don't even need to be a grown up. You just need to care enough to drop your confidential, non-binding pledge form in the plate when it comes by.

Your Church will thank you, and your spirit will begin to develop that toned, well conditioned feel that only a good *workout* can provide.

Litany for Epiphany

All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God, Alleluia!
Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Alleluia!

With joy let us pray to our Savior,
the Son of God who became one of us, saying:
The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ,
let your gospel shine in every place
where the Word of life is not yet received.
Draw the whole creation to yourself
that your salvation may be known through all the earth.
The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Savior and Lord,
extend your church to every place.
Make it a place of welcome for people of every race and
tongue.
The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Ruler of rulers,
direct the work and thoughts of the leaders of nations
that they may seek justice,
and further peace and freedom for all.
The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Master of all,
support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted,
strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen.
Watch over the lonely and those in danger.
Give hope to the despairing
and sustain the faith of the persecuted.
The grace of God be with us all.

(a brief silence)

O Christ, light made manifest as the true light of God,
gladden our hearts on the joyful morning of your glory;
call us by our name on the great day of your coming;
and give us grace to offer,
with all the hosts of heaven,
unending praise to God
in whom all things find their ending,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.