

First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, NJ



Our Mission Statement - "We, the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, are called by God to be a spiritual and visible presence by living out our faith and sharing our gifts among God's people."

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026 @ 9:45AM

Assemble In God's Name

PRELUDE “*How Shall We Know Him*” Gilbert M. Martin
~ Offered by **Suzanne Parmly** ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT “*Christmas Angels*” . Tradition French Carol, Mendelssohn, arr. Lloyd Larson
~ Offered by **John Garth** and **Suzanne Parmly** ~

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”*

Many: **On this second Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David.**

One: *When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Many: **On this second Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

One: *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Glory to God in the highest heaven!*

*HYMN #151 “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*” **KINGS OF ORIENT**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#581)**

**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.**

***THE PEACE**

*You are invited to exchange the peace of Christ, greeting each other
with the words below.*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Listen for God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 63:7-9 (pg. 848 OT)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 2 NT)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "To Follow the Star" Dr. Whitney S. Bayer

***HYMN #144 "In the Bleak Midwinter"** CRANHAM

Respond to God

WE GIVE OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Led by a Star" Lloyd Larson

***THE DOXOLOGY (#607)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to raise your hand if you have a joy or concern to share aloud.

The Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

... (Unison) **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**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE GIVING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go in God's Name

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to raise your hand if you have a joy or concern to share aloud.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

... (Unison) **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**

***HYMN #347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"** PICARDY

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*" TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**You are invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

*# Indicates song in **Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)***