

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given

in loving memory of Dan Patrino by his family.

Music—One License A-731491

Anthem Lyrics—

We would see Jesus; lo! His star is shining above the stable while the angels sing.
There in a manger on the hay reclining; Haste, let us lay our gifts before the King.
We would see Jesus, Mary's son most holy. Light of the village life from day to day;
Shining revealed through every task most lowly, the Christ of God, the life, the truth, the way.
We would see Jesus, on the mountain teaching, with all the list'ning people gathered round;
while birds and flowers and sky above are preaching
the blessedness which simple trust has found.
We would see Jesus in His work of healing, at eventide before the sun was set;
Divine and human, in His deep revealing of God made flesh, in loving service met.
We would see Jesus, in the early morning, still as of old He calleth, "Follow me!"
let us arise, all meaner service scorning: Lord, we are thine, we give ourselves to Thee.
We would see Jesus, Shepherd, Savior, Cornerstone; The Bread of Life, beloved Son of God.
The risen Lord who claims me as His very own, bids me to follow where his fee have trod.

****Please stand as you are able.**

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm

infofumccf@gmail.com

www.firstchurchcf.com



Sunday Worship Service and Live-streaming at 10:45 am.

Epiphany Sunday

10:45 am

January 5, 2025

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*—Pachelbel

Introit—*O God Our Help in Ages Past*—Cruger

Call to Worship

Lord you have been our dwelling place

in all generations

From everlasting to everlasting

You are God.

Opening Hymn 254** —*We Three Kings*

Invocation

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading—*Psalm 72:1-4, 10-14*

Gloria Patri—*Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem—*We Would See Jesus*—Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading—*Matthew 2:1-12*

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon—"The Wise Still Seek Him"

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 247**—*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*—J.C. Bach

Doxology**

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.

Prayer of the People/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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn 249**—*There's a Song in the Air!*

Benediction—*Let Us Share God's Love*—Stan Pethel

Postlude—*Pieces Choises pour l'Orgue: Plein jeu*—Louis Marchand

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #254, We Three Kings

1. 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 light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

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

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.
(Refrain)

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

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #247, O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright
thou beamest forth in truth and light,
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
my Lord and Master, thou has won
my heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy,
fair and glorious, all-victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.

2. Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine!
O deep within my heart now shine,
and make thee there an altar!
fill me with joy and strength to be
thy member, ever joined to thee
in love that cannot falter;
toward thee longing
doth possess me; turn and bless me;
here in sadness
eye and heart long for thy gladness.

3. What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, o glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness,
We are yearning for the day of your returning.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #249, There's a Song in the Air!

1. There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!
2. There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!
3. In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!
4. We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	Lee Miller
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Joanne Ames	Becky & Jerry Pecko
Debbie Amundsen	Becky Petty
Mary Ellen Atwood	Sandi Robinson
Dorothy Bates	Holly Ross
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Kathi Sawyer
Suzanne Callahan	Todd Schneider
Mary Griest	Michael Taucher
Jim Henes	Kathy Walker
Jeff Iula	Rose Ann Youngkin
Dwight Konic	
Judy Lewis	
Kristopher Lewis	
Marge Magee	
Delores Marefka	
Bonnie Michaud	

In our greater world: We pray for those who are facing uncertainty. We pray for Lake-more UMC and Lockwood UMC.

We Three Kings?

Herod is the only king mentioned in Matthew 2

Yet he is unaware of what God was doing

The Wise Still Seek Him

The Magi had to stop for directions when they got to Israel

There's an overabundance of certainty in modern Christianity

The wise still take uncertain adventures seeking for Jesus

Questions for Reflection: God chose that he should be born in Bethlehem.

Not Rome, the seat of all political power in Europe. Not Jerusalem, the seat of political and religious power in Israel. Do I seek to make the world better through political or social power rather than through prayer and spiritual discipline? Have I allowed my heart to be fully conquered by the Messiah?

Questions for Discussion: What examples of God using the lowly to achieve mighty things do we have in our world today?

Memory Verse: Matthew 2:6 – “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Readings for this Week: Acts 8:14-17, Ephesians 3:1-12, Luke 3:15-22