

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**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.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

When passing the bread to your neighbor say, "The body of Christ, broken for you."

When passing the cup to your neighbor say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

We will hold each element until all are served and then partake together.

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN OF SENDING #231 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (verse 1)

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Shout the Glad Tidings"

Charles Avison



**WELCOME VISITOR!** We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about the Christian faith and about the church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor  
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director  
Ward Gailey, Music Director  
Dorothy Clark, Organist

Linda Hodges, Office Manager  
Tom Francis, Custodian  
Nursery Attendants: Stephanie Phillips and Megan Bennett

Stockbridge Presbyterian

Church

January 3, 2016

11:00 am



**Celebrating the Sacrament Of Communion**

*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."*

*Matthew 2:1b-2*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.  
Otherwise, Susan will turn into her evil twin and give you The Look.)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY "March of the Three Kings" (from the oratorio "Saul")

Acolyte: Lorren Huggins

G. F. Handel

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: John Dunn

**Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you for submission to church prayer list.**

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #40 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all,  
to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

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

Liturgist: Jim Beisner

Leader: May your king judge your people with righteousness, O God, and your poor with justice.

**All: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves their lives.

**All: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound.**

**All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #233 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vv. 1, 2, and 5 only)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, forgive us when we are prideful, when we believe ourselves to be better than others, when we exclude those we fear or dislike. Forgive our silly self-righteousness and our hardness of heart. Help us to love and accept others as you so graciously love and accept us, just as we are. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 John 1:9)

Leader: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Friends, rejoice again in God's amazing grace:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

**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.**

## PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

John Dunn

#### ANTHEM "Ring Out, Wild Bells"

Ward Gailey, soloist

Thomas Gibbs

*(Children will be dismissed to Children's Worship following the anthem.)*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING Ephesians 3:1-12

Page 181, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING Matthew 2:1-12

Page 1, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON "His Star at Its Rising"

Rev. Susan Bennett

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### MINISTRY OF GIVING

#### OFFERTORY "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

Johann Christoph Bach

#### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**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.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE