

**retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\*\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*\*Hymn “Gloria Patri”**

***“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 Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another.

**Time with Our Youngest Saints**

### ***THE WORD***

**Unison Prayer for Understanding**

**Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word, reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ, and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness. Amen.**

**The Reading from the Gospels**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, 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.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered



*For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

**\*\*Hymn**                    *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above,  
ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” Amen.*

**\*\*Prayer of Dedication**

***THE SENDING***

**\*\*Hymn 411**                    *“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”*

**\*\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*\*Postlude**

**\*\*please stand as you are able**



***First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster***

***Order of Worship for Epiphany Sunday***

***January 5, 2025 ~ ~ 11 a.m.***

*Liturgist: Mrs. Lita Leavell*

*Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish*

*Ushers—Mrs. Joyce Bryant and Mrs. Cheryl Denney*

*Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney*

***Please silence your phones prior to worship.***

***THE GATHERING***

