

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**      “We Three Kings of Orient Are”      131

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

**\*POSTLUDE**



**OHIO UNITED**

*Presbyterian Church*



***Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor;  
Helping Our Neighbors to Love God***

**January 5, 2024**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Kalyn Stewing

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

Let us share this peace with one another.

(please greet those around you with signs of peace)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

**PRELUDE**

Alli Feszko

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine, for your light has come

**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison)

Liturgist Chris Mathias

**God of power and might, God of grace and mercy, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joys and sorrows, displaying your greatness in the child of the manger. We praise you for your amazing love, great enough to embrace the expanding universe, yet close enough to enter our humble hearts. During this time of worship, surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honor your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen**

**\*HYMN**      “Joy to the World”

134

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of goodness and guidance, in Christ you sent us light to live by, yet we seek shadows in which to hide. In him, you promise new life but we embrace our old habits, nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions. You are generous with your love, but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us. Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy, and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.**

*Silence is kept...*

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Here is the good news of the Gospel! Jesus Christ is God’s elect, chosen for our salvation. In him we find God’s acceptance. Let us give thanks to God for this gift, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE** “As with Gladness Men of Old” verse 4 150

**DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**ANTHEM**

**CHILDREN’S CHAT**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** (Based on John 1)

O God, through your Word all things came into being.  
In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh in Christ Jesus and lived among us.  
As we hear your written Word, help us to see your truth and to testify to it, that all might believe in your Living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 2:1-12

**SERMON** “Choosing Wisely”

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In spite of a thousand unanswered questions, God of grace, we believe.  
We believe that you have been with us in history, bringing liberty to the oppressed and salvation to the lost.  
We believe that you chose nations and people to receive your Light and to share it.  
We believe that in the face of our Messiah, Jesus, your

Light shines with inextinguishable grace.  
We believe that all your hopes rested in him and that one day they will all be fulfilled.  
We believe that Christ continues with us, and that nothing done in his name can ever be lost.  
In spite of a thousand unanswered questions, God of grace, we believe.

**\*HYMN** “Jesus Entered Egypt” 154

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

**OFFERING**

The season of Epiphany begins January 6, the day celebrating the journey of the Magi to greet Christ, the new-born king. They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. Our gifts are not so exotic but what we offer today and throughout the year honors Jesus as Lord of our lives and Savior of the world.

**OFFERTORY** “Carol of Bethlehem”  
Shirley Fluharty and Chris Mathias

**\* RESPONSE** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in good times and hard times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to offer the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope in Jesus name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** “We Three Kings of Orient Are” verses 1 & 5 151

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday School**

Children 3 yrs – 6th grade during worship following Children’s Chat  
Adult Sunday School–9am to 9:45am

**Sunday, January 5**–Undecorating the church following congregational Meeting

**There will be a congregational meeting to elect officers on January 5, 2025 following worship**

**Monday, January 6**–Property Meeting @6:30pm

**Monday, January 6**–Youth Group resumes @7 to 8:30pm

**Wednesday, January 8**–Story Time resumes @9:30 or 10:30 am

**Sunday, January 12**–Communion

Starting on January 12, the Adult Sunday School Class at 9am will begin the study of the Book of Daniel. If interested in participating, please contact John Martin at 724-601-0833 or at martinjw5@comcast.net.

**Keep Them in Your Prayers:** Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Paul (Karen Keller’s friend), Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Marcia Davis, Jack Gennaro, Tom Owczarzak, Paul Kulha, Jim Williams

**In the Military:** William Barth

**Those who are not able to worship regularly:** Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Pat & Tony Wozniak, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Betty Solinski, Ed & Evelyn Lawson

## **OHIO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1236 LONGVUE AVE.  
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

Our website is: [www.ohiopresbyterian.org](http://www.ohiopresbyterian.org)

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@ohiounitedpresbyterianchur1974/streams>

- Sunday worship 10:00 am
- Sunday School for our younger members (Grades Pre-K - 6th grade) during worship

### **Pastor:**

Kalyn D. Stevwing

[pastorkalyn@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkalyn@gmail.com)

724-841-8145

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Nancy Connell

Church office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00

Church phone #: 724-378-3690 ext. 3

Church email: [office@ohioupchurch.com](mailto:office@ohioupchurch.com)

**Choir Director:** Amanda Collins

**Worship Leader/Pianist:** Alli Feszko

**Custodian:** Monica Ward

**Treasurer:** Chris Hurni

**Youth Coordinator:** Peggy Franzese

**Organist Emeritus:** Shirley Fluharty

### **OUR SESSION**

CLASS OF 2026: Joe Glatz, Jennifer Davis

Rich Palmer (2T), John Martin (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Chris Otto (2T), Casey Honess (2T),

Patti Strominger, Chris Mathias

CLASS OF 2024: Gina Arzberger (2T), Rayna Knox

Paul Magee (2T), Wendi Rybicki

### **OUR DEACONS**

CLASS OF 2026: Dave Kocher, Ivonne Holsinger

Greg Holsinger, Dianne Kanitra (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Dawn Psik, Terri Owczarzak

Denise Matthias, Ken Jones

CLASS OF 2024: Jeff Barth, Bob Hurni

Eleanor Pike, Corinna Petrella

