

## First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2015

10:00 a.m.

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music (Hymnal 583)

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "O Morning Star, How Fair, How Bright" arr. Sedio

Call to Worship

*John 1:9-14*

The Word became flesh and lived among us

***And we have seen his glory.***

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

***Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.***

\* Hymn 152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Holy God,***

***we confess that we are a distracted people***

***and forgetful of your love.***

***We make selfish choices,***

***hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world.***

***We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry***

***and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation.***

***By the power of your Spirit,***

***forgive, restore, and strengthen us***

***to live in your light and walk in your truth;***

***through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Passing of the Peace

\* Glory to God (Hymnal 583)

### PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: John 1:1-18

A Time with Children

Special Music

*Our young children are invited to attend "Joyful Noise" in room 103.*

Second Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14 (OT, p. 734)

Sermon: "Homecoming"

Rev. Carter

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Hymnal p. 34)

Offering

Offertory

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

arr. Linker

*Joyful Noise! participants will return to the sanctuary.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.*

\* Prayer after Communion

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

- \* Hymn 151                    “We Three Kings of Orient Are”
- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* Postlude                    “Masters in This Hall”                    arr. Young

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\*        All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Janet Stansbury to the glory of God and in honor of loved ones.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	William G. Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Wayne Griffiths
Ushers	Betty Keen, John Conklin



Hear the word of the LORD,  
O nations, and declare  
it in the coastlands  
far away ...

Jeremiah 31:10, NRSV

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### ***John 1:1-18***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### ***Jeremiah 31:7-14***

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.