#### **HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

In this mailing you'll find a note from Pastor Katie and the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 via zoom by going to <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081</a> or join us by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link. If you need help with zoom, call D.R. Palmer before Sunday. It is so good to see and hear each other! Please plan to join

#### THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

#### Monday, January 11

7:30 a.m. - Personnel Committee via Zoom

#### Tuesday, January 12

9:00 a.m. - Coffee with Katie via Zoom 2:00 p.m. - Community Life Committee via Zoom

## Wednesday, January 13

4:00 p.m. – JOT via Zoom

## Thursday, December 31

3:30 p.m. - Tea Time with Katie via Zoom

#### Saturday, January 16

9:00 a.m. - Worship and Music Planning Retreat via Zoom

### **Assisting in Worship This Week**

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer Worship Leader – Van Swan Director of Music - Karyl Lyne Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer

Accompanist – Em Krall Visuals – Tegan Palmer





First United Presbyterian Church 1000 Douglas Avenue PO Box 37 Las Vegas NM 87701



January 6, 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I hope your Christmas week was full of joy and your New Year's celebration full of hope for things to come. Thank you for all the cards and well-wishes that came to the Palmer house during the season. We had a relaxing, rather lazy, week away from things, enjoying some beautiful drives, working on some household tasks, and sleeping in. As someone I talked to said, it was the kind of vacation that doesn't demand a second vacation for recovery. ©

This coming Sunday we retrace our steps a bit, back to the magi's visit to Jesus, which they completed by following that famous star. Our nativity sets—many of which we saw in photos on Christmas Eve as we listened to the well-known "Away in a Manger"—often conflate the coming of the magi with the visit of the shepherds. These two events happen in different gospels. It seems that the shepherds visit shortly after Jesus' birth, having been told by the chorus of angels that they would find this baby Messiah in Bethlehem (Luke 2). In Matthew's gospel, we hear the story of the magi's visit. A close read tells us that by then Jesus was probably a toddler, for Herod, after questioning the magi about when the star appeared to announce the new king's birth, killed infants two and under in his attempt to annihilate any would-be king (Matthew 2). You might remember that Jesus escaped this massacre because Joseph was told by an angel, in a dream, to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt, where they became refugees in a foreign land until after Herod's death. On Sunday we will open worship by remembering Epiphany—the day in our liturgical calendar (January 6) that recalls the visit of the magi, their recognition of Jesus as king of the Jews, and our recognition of Jesus as the Incarnate God.

From there, we will move toward the time, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke, when John the Baptist begins to baptize people and predicts the coming of one greater than he. We will hear the very understated version of Jesus' baptism in this gospel.

We will have the opportunity to respond to the gospel message with a renewal of our own baptismal vows. Please have a small bowl of water nearby so that you can mark the sign of the cross in water on your forehead as a symbol of our renewal of these vows. Below, I have included three haikus from Margaret Moran about baptism; I hope you find them thought-provoking.

Over the next several weeks, as we move toward the Lenten season (which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17), we will follow the stories of Jesus' early ministry as recorded by Luke. I hope these stories will be meaningful and will set us on the way with Jesus.

With thanks for all of you, Pastor Katie

**Baptism** 

Only the start of Our story we try to grow To fullness of life

**Felt On Baptism Day** 

Sense of peace and joy Closeness and love of God when New life entered in

**Baptism Symbolizes** 

Opening of our hearts Toward the mystery already there Welcomes love of God

January Elder of the Month – Carol Litherland – 505-454-9704 or 505-429-0923 January Deacon of the Month - Juli Salman -505-429-0290 Church Office closed to the public, but calls and emails will be answered Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. fupc.nm@gmail.com 505-425-7763 www.lvpresbyterian.org

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com

## FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701 January 10, 2021 10:30 a.m.



# EPIPHANY AND BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**MEDITATION** – Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith. – Watchman Nee

#### WE GATHER TOGETHER

WELCOME Rev. Katie Palmer

PRELUDE Em Krall
ANNOUNCEMENTS Van Swan

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us make a commitment during this time to call someone today, visit with them, and wish them the peace of Christ.

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

Arise and shine, for God's light has been revealed to us in a star that brought magi to visit Jesus. God's light reaches across time and space.

## We have come to see; we have come to follow.

Arise and shine, for in Christ God's light has been revealed to all people; God's glory has been unveiled in all the earth. **We have come to see; we have come to follow.** 

We have come to worship together, for the light has come--the light that overcomes darkness and brings new life!

**OPENING HYMN** As With Gladness Men of Old (GTG #150)

#### **RESPONSIVE PRAYER\***

God of light, of revelation and of the water of life, we give thanks today for the epiphany of your incarnation to the visitors of the young Christ child; we give thanks for the Spirit Dove who showed us the nature of Jesus in his baptism. Together, we recognize the light you brought into the world and the symbol of a guiding star - a star that we, as the magi before us, seek to follow.

God, who revealed yourself to wise men following a star, guide all who search and journey towards your light today.

# God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God, who unveiled yourself in the gift of a son, show yourself to all who seek after justice and righteousness today.

# God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

God, who was baptized with those who declared their repentance in the Jordan river, manifest yourself to all who come with repentant hearts today.

# God, whose light shines like a bright guiding star, have mercy on us.

Show us your mercy; immerse us in your grace; shine before us, beckoning us to follow. We pray all these things in the name of Christ. Amen.

#### WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 3:1-22

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SERMON

The Spirit Dove

Rev. Katie Palmer

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**RESPONSE** – Renewal of Our Baptismal Vows

You are invited to have a small bowl of water available with which you can mark the renewal of your baptismal vows

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

**CLOSING HYMN** *Baptized in Water* (GTG #482)

#### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

\*Liturgy and prayer adapted from "Epiphany Prayer and Litany" by Christine Sine, https://godspacelight.com/2019/01/05/will-you-follow-epiphanys-star/

WELCOME!! - We extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today.

- \* There will be a short **Congregational Meeting** following worship today to receive the report of the Nominating Committee.
- \* The Christmas season study for the Bible-based class for adults and youth is a discussion led by Richard Lindeborg of the rest of the book *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Timothy Keller (2016). Sessions are on Zoom at 9:15 on Sundays. The reading assignment for the final session, January 17 is Chapter 8, "The Doctrine of Christmas," pp. 129-142. Since sessions are nearly over it would be best to purchase a Kindle copy.
- \* The next study for the class is discussion of the book "He said I am ... and He is" by Glenn C. Carlson, former Navy pilot, media personality and Presbyterian pastor. The book deals with the seven things Jesus asserted he is in the Gospel of John. The book is available from Xlibris.com in soft cover for \$14.99, for \$11.85 with free shipping from Amazon Prime and as a Kindle book for \$3.99. There are also a few used copies available for \$5 to \$10 with shipping from AbeBooks and Alibris.
- \* Samaritan House Food Donations January Peanut Butter and Jelly Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House
- **Prayers for the Church Family** Each week we choose some specific names to remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery. Please pray for Judi Ruprecht, Willy Ryan, and Fred Salas as well as La Mesa Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque NM (1944).