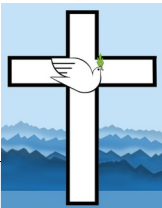


# EPIPHANY

JANUARY 8, 2023



Peace First Lutheran Church

503 . 325 . 6252

Astoria, Oregon

Peace First Lutheran Mission Statement:

*Rooted in Christ and led by the Spirit,  
We love and serve together.*

[www.peacefirstlutheran.com](http://www.peacefirstlutheran.com)

*Peace First Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes and the Chinook Indian Nation, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*



## GATHERING

(+ = Stand as you are able)

### Prelude & Welcome

**+Gathering Hymn (ELW 275) *Angels From the Realms of Glory***

### +Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

### +Hymn of Praise

***He's Got the Whole World In His Hands***

1. He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole wide world in loving hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.
2. She's got the wind and the rain in her hands.  
She's got the wind and the rain in loving hands.  
She's got the wind and the rain in her hands.  
She's got the whole world in her hands.
3. He's got the little bitty baby in his hands.  
She's got the little bitty baby in loving hands.  
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands.  
She's got the whole world in her hands.

### +Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Children's Time

**Choir (8:30 & 11:00)**

***What Star Is This?***

## WORD

**First Lesson - Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

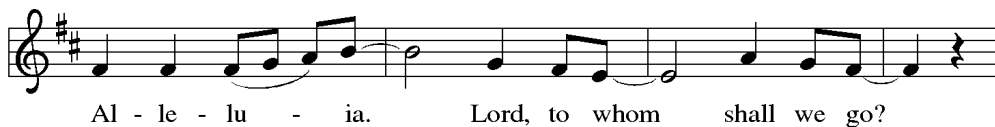
<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**+Gospel Acclamation** (*Sung before and after the reading of the Holy Gospel*)



**+Holy Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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 him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord    C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*Re-singing of the Gospel Acclamation*)

**Sermon**

**Gathering Congregational Resiliency & Vitality**

**Sarah Loose**

**+Hymn of the Day (ELW 677)**

***This Little Light of Mine***

**Prayers of the Church** (*We pray responsively*)

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you, redeeming God. Receive our thanks for their witness and faith, and guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

The following people have requested to be in our prayers:

Betty & Bill Cunningham, Betty Jo Heiner, Lynn Ure, Emily Smith, Missy Maise, Melinda Gustafson, Dave &

Lorraine Hoyer, Judy Fredrikson, Diane Kinney, Martin Nygaard and family at the passing of his daughter Mardi, Annika Ava & Khaiersta relatives of Gayle Svendsen, Judith Lampi & family at the passing of her father Melvin Lampi, Rod Lemley, Sylvia Stephens and family at the passing of her uncle Bill Belden, Kaye & Cliff Weimer, Hal Nauman family and friends at the passing of his wife Suzanne, Judy Shatto, Ben Horner (wife Barbara passed away—aunt to Ruth Benner), Natalie Osburn & family at the passing of her step-dad John, Cassie Clark, John Jensen.

Ben Holland, Navy  
Makayla Weimer Armstrong, USAF  
Neesen Bristow, USAF  
Bill Pie, USCG

Brian Perez, Army  
Clairisa Jensen, Army  
Morgan Hale, USN  
Luke Berdahl, USMC

Josh Schaueremann, Army  
Micah Cenci, Army Nat'l Guard  
Hanna Hale, USN  
Samuel Brown, USCG

## Sharing the Peace

### MEAL

## Offering Hymn (ELW 461)      **All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

### Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

### +The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### +Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### +Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### +Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### Communion Hymns

ELW 300 *The First Noel*  
ELW 292 *Love Has Come*

### Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### +Blessing

God bless you and keep you,  
✚ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace  
upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

**+Sending Hymn (ELW 671)**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

**+Bells & Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace

Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Ensemble: Laurie Drage, Phyllis Taylor, Charlene Larsen, Pastor Steve

*Music used by permission: Augsburg Fortress #SB124430 and OneLicense #A-706695*

*A list of today's worship helpers can be found in the Narthex.*

## Sunday Attendance for January 1, 2023 was 74

We welcome you here today to worship. Please take a moment to fill out a WELCOME Card, found in each pew rack to let us know you are here, and to share any prayer requests. On your way out, please place it in the offering plate at the back of the Sanctuary. To our guests, we invite you to also sign our Guest Book located in the narthex. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. God's Peace!

### Sunday School & Christian Education Offerings

**Sundays from 9:45-10:45 A.M.**

- Godly Play for our pre-K and elementary aged children
- Rite-13 (Confirmation) & High School — Contact Church Office for Schedule.
- Adults: Join the Fellowship Hour while the kids are in Sunday School!

Nursery care available during both worship services, and Sunday School hour if needed.



**CHURCH  
WORKDAY**

## HOPE HOUSE CLEAN-OUT DAY

**Saturday, January 14, 2023**, from 9:00am until approx. 1:00pm, we'll be clearing out and cleaning the former Hope House. We need to get the place ready for our project manager to begin his work in February. We'll be removing old items, vacuuming cobwebs, wiping down shelves, counters, kitchens and bath, and sweeping out the basement. **HOT LUNCH will be provided** by the Outreach Team. There is much to be done, and we need as many as can help that day. Please sign up at the Welcome Table or call the church office and plan now to join us.

**Because the need is so great . . .  
we're doing it again!**

Now through Sunday, January 22, we'll be collecting items for the **Astoria Warming Center**. They are most in need of blankets; warm coats; water-resistant outerwear including shoes and gloves; men's pants (28- 34 waist); sleeping bags and tents. They can always use hygiene supplies, socks and new or gently used underwear.

**Place your donation in the baskets in the church entry by January 22.**





## 2023 Giving Envelopes

The giving envelopes for 2023 are now available for you. Make sure to pick yours up in the Narthex. They are alphabetized by last name.

### Bible Study, Wednesday, 10:30am

We continue our study in the **Book of Matthew** this week with Session 4:

4. You of Little Faith (Matthew 14:13-36)
5. Who Do You Say That I Am? (Matthew 16:13—17:9 [13])
6. Where Two or Three Are Gathered in My Name (Matthew 18:1-22 [23-35])
7. My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? (Matthew 27:32-56)
8. I Am with You Always (Matthew 28:1-10 [11-15], 16-20)

ID: 851 5770 0410,

Passcode: fxiPH5

## EPIPHANY

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>SACRED GROUND</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Parkinsons Support Group</b>
		<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Scouts BSA (UFR)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Stewardship Sewing (DFH)</b>
		<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Budget &amp; Finance</b>
		<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Executive Council</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Noontime Prayer</b>
		<b>6:15 pm</b>	<b>Cub Scouts (FSR)</b>
		<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Anti-Racism Team</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 13</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Friday Musical Club</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 14</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Day of Service @ Hope House</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 15</b>		<b>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</b>

**Blue = Uppertown campus    Red = Downtown campus**

**Church Council:** Congregational President—Jim Randall, Congregational Vice President—Rick Balkins, Secretary—Sylvia Stephens, Financial Secretary—Phyllis Taylor, Treasurer—Karen Haines, Non-Officers: Jon Burpee, Lowell Benner, Lori McDonald, Leila Collier