

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

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<https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>

Star Words

A PRAYER PRACTICE

*For we saw His star in the east and have
come to worship Him. -Matthew 2:2*

The Epiphany of the Lord
December 31, 2023
10:00 AM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor
Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org
828.448.8914

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

George Frederic Handel, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Gilder (CCLI #5607039)

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP *(Isaiah 9, 60)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 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.
 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
 Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.
 Let us celebrate the Light of the world,
for upon us has the Light shined.

+ OPENING SONG

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (CCLI #3350395)

PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

God of the Bethlehem star, everyone is searching for your light shining in the face of Christ. The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him. But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger. We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure. We do not come simply to worship: we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health, and wealth; asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions for not-so-important requests that we heap before him. But the Magi sought first the kingdom. Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own needs in perspective, worshiping Christ in love, content to be in your presence, and laying our gifts before you. Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life. Hear us now, as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A Time of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

In the midst of our darkness and ignorance,

the bright light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished souls.

Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's love and forgiveness are given to you this day.

Thanks be to God!

+ RESPONSE

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child

126

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.

**Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.**

Listen to the angels sing:

"Glory, glory, glory!"

Let the heavens ring. (Repeat)

+ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.)

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Adam Bowling

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our minds to understand the wisdom of your Word, O God. Open our ears to hear the good news your scripture shares with us. Open our lips to declare your righteousness and open our hearts to receive the gift of your salvation in the birth of Jesus.

Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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."³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Star Words

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

(If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak with Pastor Adam or someone at the Welcome Table right outside the sanctuary. For those worshipping online, please email Pastor Adam at adam.bowling@fupcdc.org. Know that ALL are welcome in this place!)

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+ SONG OF RESPONSE

What Child Is This

Arr. Sovereign Grace Ministries

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

Instructions: *During the music at the offering, ALL are welcome to come forward, by way of the center aisle, and pick up a new 2024 star word as a prayer focus and practice in the new year. Please return to your seats by way of the outside aisles.*

SERVICE OF GIVING

Music at the Offering

We Three Kings

John H. Hopkins, Jr. Arr. Mark Hayes

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Christ your Son, you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

+ **SENDING SONG**

Christ Is All in All

Kristyn Getty, Dwan Hill, Ben Shive

+ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

In Christ Alone (Verse 4)

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (CCLI #3350395)

+ *Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Worship Notes

* **WELCOME!** Whether you are new in the area, a resident of the community, or visiting, we are delighted you joined us in worship. Please come to the Welcome Table at the rear of the sanctuary after the service to fill out an info card and to receive a special gift. To find out more about this church, please call the Church Office at 703-670-7834 or speak with Pastor Adam, adam.bowling@fupcdc.org.

* **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

Alessandro Trujillo

Connect with Us

- * **WE ARE ON FACEBOOK:** If you use Facebook, become a Facebook friend, and become a fan of First United Presbyterian. Make friends with others from the church.
- * **WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM:** Find us on Instagram @fupcdc.
- * **FUPCDC WEBSITE:** For detailed news and information, visit the church website at <https://fupcdc.org>.
- * **FUPCDC YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** To view worship services and videos, visit the FUPCDC Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>. You can also find our channel by searching for "FUPCDC Video".
- * **TEXT ALERTS:** Remind is a free text messaging service that will help our church communicate quickly and efficiently. On your cell phone, start a new message to **81010**. In the message, type @fupcdc and send. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- * **THURSDAY NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED:** To read about all the great things that are happening at FUPCDC, you can receive a weekly email. To sign up for the Thursday News, go to <https://fupcdc.org> and click on the church email signups button or email the church office at office@fupcdc.org.
- * **CONNECT CARD/PRAYER CARD:** If you are new to FUPCDC or you need to update your information, please fill out a Connect Card. On the back side is the Prayer Card. It would be our honor to pray for your joys and concerns. Please drop the card in the Prayer Request box in the Welcome Center.

Ministry in Action

- * **NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL:** There will be no Pastor's Bible study and no Wednesday Night meal on January 3rd.

Student Ministry News

- ✚ **YOUTH CALENDARS:** Youth calendars are now available online and in the Welcome Center.
- * **STUDENT MINISTRY EMAILS:** Sign up to receive Student Ministry emails. Ask Briana Stewart how to do this, or go to the FUPCDC website.
- * **TEXT MESSAGES:** Sign up for Text Messages: Text @youthfupc to 81010.

Joys and Concerns

All those who are ill or facing difficulties, including:

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ✝ Charlie and Martha Ashton | * Debbie Niederriter | * Karen Gundel | * Linda Ford |
| * Mike Moore | * Baby Raphael | * Jeannine Menzie | * Leigh Anderson |
| * Judy Stewart | * Tanya | * Doug Godfrey | * Nate Johnson |
| * Baby Louisa Wolstenholme | * Amanda | * Yolanda Magpayo | * Sue Johnson |
| * Bill and Laura Parris | * Nathan Johnson, III | * Mikon Jones | * Marti Hall |
| * Jason, Arina, Mikail Corbin | * Steve Glycer | * Mike Gundel | * Dave Stokes |
| * Sarpong Amakao | * Pat Greenhalgh | * Lee Watenpaugh | * Shirley |

✝ We are so grateful for all the prayers, support, and acts of kindness that has been bestowed on us this year from our church family. All the best to all of you for the coming New Year!
- Karen and Mike Gundel

✝ Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Carol Miller and family at the death of her husband, Jon Miller, on December 21, 2023. Jon went from the land of dying to the land of living. Please lift Carol and the entire family up in prayer at this time.

All those serving in our military who are stationed away from home, including from our church:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✝ Kelsey Gibson (Affiliate Member of FUPCDC) | ✝ Zach Lauster (Aaron Lauster's son) |
| ✝ Elizabeth Batista (Ana Batista Caporaletti's daughter) | ✝ Ryan Bruner (Carol and Ross Schwalm's son-in-law) |
| ✝ David Cornelius, Jr. (Debbie Cornelius' son) | |

The churches of National Capital Presbytery, especially:

- ✝ Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church - Waldorf, MD
- ✝ Grace Presbyterian Church - Lanham, MD

Calendar

December 31, 2023 - January 7, 2024

SUNDAY, December 31

Epiphany Sunday

- 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:00 AM 252 Kids Club
- 10:00 AM Worship - one service
- 10:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 11:15 AM Spread the Bread
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 8:00 PM Youth - New Year's Party

MONDAY, January 1

Church Office Closed

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness

TUESDAY, January 2

- 8:30 AM TOPS
- 9:30 AM Woodbridge Christian Women's Connection
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 226
- 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 964
- 7:00 PM Growing in Faith Ministry Team
- 7:00 PM Mission Ministry Team
- 7:00 PM Bull Run Troubadours

WEDNESDAY, January 3

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 4

- 10:00 AM Fellowship Ministry Team
- 3:00 PM Prayer and Praise Small Group
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Praise Team
- 8:00 PM AA for Beginners

FRIDAY, January 5

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 5:00 PM Chrysalis Team 106
- 8:00 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion

SATURDAY, January 6

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 5:00 PM Chrysalis Team 106

SUNDAY, January 7

- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship - Communion
- 8:45 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 9:30 AM 252 Kids Club
- 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:45 AM Confirmation Class
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship - Communion
- 11:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 12:15 PM Spread the Bread
- 12:15 PM More Light Presbyterians Meeting
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 5:00 PM Youth - Bowling



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Woodbridge, VA

Ministers.....People of the Church
 Pastor.....Rev. Adam C. Bowling
 Parish Assistant.....Pastor Michael Slayter
 Nursery Supervisor.....Taylor Woods
 Children's Ministry Director.....Kim Brown
 Youth Director.....Briana Stewart
 Chancel Choir Director.....Dana Van Slyke
 Contemporary Worship Leader.....Rachel Bradley
 Pianist/Organist.....Dr. Nadia Carmichael
 Sexton.....Homer Detrich
 Office Manager.....Kim Parker

 Church Office Hours: 10AM -2:30PM, weekdays, 703-670-7834
