

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Christmas/Celebration of Epiphany

January 4, 2026

Eleven O'Clock

Greeter: Elizabeth Price

Liturgist: Pat Nash

PRELUDE:

CHIMING THE HOUR

GREETINGS Psalm 118 says: This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.

Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the the Assurance of Pardon

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **Arise, shine, for Your light has come;
and the glory of the Lord shall shine upon You.**

People: Nations shall come to Your light,
and kings to the brightness of Your rising.

Leader: **Lift up Your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to You.**

People: We shall see and be radiant;
our hearts shall thrill and rejoice.

Leader: **Let us praise and worship God!**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** Merciful God of deliverance, we praise You for sending Jesus as Light for the nations. He is the glory and radiance of Your compassion and care. Our eyes behold the brightness of Your promised righteousness; you illuminate our darkness with hope and justice. As generations have done before us, we stand in awe of Your splendor, we bow down to worship You, lifting our voices in praise of Your goodness and giving heed to Your instruction. Receive our prayers and praise through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

***CALL TO CONFESSION** Christ has come into the world, not to condemn the world, but so the world may be saved through Him. Trusting in the mercy of His promises, let us together confess our sin.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of glory, You sent Jesus among us a light of the world, to reveal Your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of Your light. We turn away from the poor, we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In Your mercy, cleanse us from our sin, and baptize us once again with Your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: **Once we were no people,**
People: **But now we are God's people.**
Leader: **Once we had not received mercy,**
People: **But now we have received mercy.**
Leader: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**
People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

You may be seated

A TIME FOR YOUTH It is now time for youth, so would our youth please come forward.

Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Guide us, O God, by Your Word and Spirit, that in Your light we may see light, in Your truth find freedom, and in Your will discover Your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to a king's son.**
May he judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.
People: **May the mountains yield prosperity for the people; and the hills, in righteousness.**
Leader: **May he defend the cause of the people,**
Give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
People: **May he live while the sun endures,**
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
Leader: **May he be like the rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**
People: **In his day may righteousness flourish,**
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
Leader: **May the kings of Tarshish and the isles render him tribute,**
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
People: **May all kings bow down before him, and all nations give him service.**

Leader: **For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and needy, and saves the lives of the needy.**

People: **From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
And precious is their blood in his sight.**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Isaiah 60:1-6, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 690 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

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. 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 in their nurses' arms. 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. 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Matthew 2:1-12 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 2 of the New Testament

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"If We Tell It, They Will Come"

Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins

Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:

***HYMN** No. 150 *"As with Gladness, Men of Old"* DIX

Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.

***AFFIRMATION THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 “*Glory Be to the Father*” *GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end, Amen, amen.

You may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY:

RESPONSE: Hymn No. 606 “*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We life them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...join our voice with theirs to pray the prayer Christ 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Loving God, You have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup, and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring Your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

HYMN No. 515 "*I Come with Joy*" DOVE OF PEACE

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 136 "*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*" GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE:**

***Those who are able may stand.**

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS
IN THE OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church www.desotopresbyterian.church

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY – 10:30 AM Tuesday morning group - Take down Christmas decorations

THURSDAY – 10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY –

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service

PRAYER CONCERNS (Lori is on vacation, so these aren't current)

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – her back is really painful

The church and nation of Ukraine

DeSoto Food Pantry

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Joan Christy – continued prayers

Mirielle said the election went well, but the current leader refuses to leave office, so
please continue to pray for Cameroon

Jessica Zinn's step mother is having knee surgery

Nicholas' uncle had a stroke, and he seems to have a brain bleed

Andre Kanu was in a bad car accident, prayers for a speedy recovery

Travel mercies for all our friends and members traveling

CELEBRATIONS

Chika thanks God for saving Andre's life

Okoro and Ogbeyalu celebrated their anniversary

Michelle celebrated that her cousin Ella was here, and today is Ella's birthday