

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, Year B

We welcome Rev. Courtney Steininger, our Session Moderator and Minister of Christian Education at Bedford Presbyterian Church to the pulpit today!

OPENING MUSIC "What Star is This, With Beams So Bright" adapt. Praetorius, 1609
Mary Temple, organ

During the opening music, let us quiet the noise from outside, cease our conversation with the world, and begin listening for the music of God's voice.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

People: The cosmos cries, "Glory!"

Leader: From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

People: The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, "Glory!"

Leader: The magi studied the skies and saw a strange light.

People: Rising upon us, the star cried, "Glory!"

Leader: In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

People: With all of creation, we cry, "Glory!"

***GRAY HYMNAL #163**

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin. You created the earth and called it good, but now it groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed and carelessness. You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us. Lord have mercy. Re-create us now. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

The heavens part, the waters swirl, and the dove descends, reminding us that we too, are God's beloved children. We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen!

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE GLORIA: Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. **People: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

“From a Distant Home”
Gilead Singers

Puerto Rican Carol

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
Genesis 1: 1-5

⁴ So John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”
Mark 1: 4-11

SERMON

“Three Epiphanies”

Rev. Courtney Steininger

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

***GRAY HYMNAL #166**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“What Can I Give Him?”
Gilead Singers

text: Christina Rossetti
music: Don Cason

***DOXOLOGY: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine or any substance that feels appropriate; or take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically. For those joining physically, the individual Communion sets contain juice; in the trays the red is wine and the yellow is juice.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

BREAKING OF BREAD

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

John Vangor, guitar

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*GRAY HYMNAL #138

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Go Now in Peace"

POSTLUDE

"3 Kings"
Mary Temple, organ

arr. by Patricia Lou Harris

*The congregation is invited to stand. **BOLD:** Congregation responds/sings

*Thank you to our Lay Reader today, Mariah Warren,
and our videographers, Lexie Fischer and Stephanie Gould.*

This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, January 7

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.
- We invite you to take home your poinsettias today!
- Please stay and help us “de-green” the church today, if you can.

Monday, January 8

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Wednesday, January 10

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom; the link is in the weekly email.

Thursday, January 11

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class
- 7:00 p.m. Called Session meeting on Zoom

Friday, January 12

- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Gilead Food Pantry

Sunday, January 14

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Christmas Pageant.

Upcoming:

Tuesday, January 16- Session meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the lounge

Sunday, January 21- Secret Pal Party and cookie exchange following worship

January Mission: Our food pantry families come to the food pantry every other week and need assistance to purchase food the week they do not come. It would be great to be able to give them gift cards to local grocery stores to help them out. I will be placing a box in the lounge to put the cards in. Thank you for your help, Redd Behan

We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Follow us online! Visit our website for links to our social media and to subscribe to our email list!

www.gileadchurch.org

