

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont**

Welcomes You to Worship



**January 4, 2025
Epiphany Year A**

Welcome!

***Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community
and by living God's love in word and deed.***

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple "Glory to God" hymnal. This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands

Prelude

Alison Cerutti

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Welcome

Call to Worship (Jeremiah 31)

Leader: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts
for the chief of the nations;

**Congregation: Give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your
people."**

Leader: They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion;

**Congregation: They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
their life shall become like a watered garden, and
they shall never languish again.**

Leader: With expectation and joy as we begin a new year, let
us worship the living God!

★Opening Hymn No. 662 "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun
of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring
from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (adapted from Jeremiah 31:7-9, 13)

We cry out: "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel," for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor. Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

Silence is kept for individual confession of sins.

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Ephesians 1)

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

According to the riches of Christ's grace, we are redeemed.

Hear and believe this good news;

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen

◆**Passing of the Peace** - Now is the time we pass the peace saying "Peace be with you" and responding with "And also with you." When we pass the peace of Christ, we affirm that the nature of our faith is founded in the love, grace, and peace Christ continually extends to us.

LISTENING

Scripture Lesson

Luke 14:15-24

Rev. Dwight

Sermon

"Epiphany"

Rev. Dwight

RESPONDING

★**Hymn No. 151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading still proceeding, guide us to they perfect light!*

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. *Refrain*
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain*
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping god Most High. *Refrain*
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering floom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.
Refrain
5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering (you may place your offering in the box just behind the last pew of the sanctuary or give online at fpcbarre.org-click the green "Donate" button on the front page. You may also mail in your offering. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

★Closing Hymn No. 744

"Arise Your Light Has Come"

- 1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**
- 2. Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captives liberty, good tidings to the poor.**
- 3. Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**
- 4. Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

Benediction

Postlude

◆Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Thanks to Alison Cerutti for being our music maker.

Thanks to Roxanne Casadonte for being our worship leader.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE
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Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Richard Scott in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for him. Hold him in the palm of your hand let him feel your love. Give him the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face what challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries usually within the PNNE. This week our prayers are for the PNNE Stated Meeting - Jan.8.

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

In loving Memory of Louis, Priscilla, and Mark Taft by Pam and Roland Cyr

In loving Memory of my family by Cynthia Vanetti

In loving Memory of Doris Portalupi by Katherine Paterson

In loving Memory of my family by Lee Bonamico

In loving Memory of Hilda and James H. Ricks

In loving Memory of Diane Paulger

In loving Memory of Preston Dixon

In Honor of Peggy Hood

In Honor of Lee Aura Bonamico

In Honor of Barb Bernatchy and Jon Killian

In Honor of Polly Thomas

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

January 6th - Allyson Felch

January 6th - Carol Fumagalli

January 7th - Gina Hilton-VanOsdall

January 8th - Cathy Jamieson

January 8th - Jon Kilian

January 9th - Jennifer Milne

January 9th - Jim Nichols-Fleming

January 11th - Kimberly Kelty

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

None



We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) This means we have three areas of focus to our ministries: **building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.**

*First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
We are members of the Presbytery of Northern New England.*

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