

Welcome to this service of worship.

As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people. [*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.
Bold type signifies congregational response.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME

PRELUDE

Hymn Prelude on "What Star is This that Beams So Bright?"
arr. Stearns

WELCOME

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines in the darkness.
Let us worship God.

* HYMN #63 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and love, shine into the darkness of our lives and world. We confess that we become so preoccupied with ourselves and our families, that we forget the needs of the people around us. We not only ignore, but participate in, the systems that make these problems worse. May your love grow in our hearts that they might overflow with thanksgiving and with zeal for justice. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

Affirm the good news of the Gospel
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and have peace with God.

*PRAYER RESPONSE *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

ANTHEM *From A Distant Home* Puerto Rican Carol
(for text see hymn #64)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible NT p. 2

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

MESSAGE "Good News for Seekers!" Rev. Russ Feroe

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN # 67
Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God: who has created and is creating; who has come in the true man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust God. God calls us to be in the church: to celebrate God's presence; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal, traditional version using "debts" and "debtors."

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lord, Today* Ducote/Daigle

Refrain: Lord, today we have seen your glory, dawn follows the night. We, your people who walked in darkness now have seen a great light.

A child is born, a Son given us, on Him dominion shall rest. His name shall be Wonderful God, counselor, Prince of Peace.

Refrain

The Lord is King, the nations rejoice, let all God's people be glad. The heavens proclaim justice for all. Glory has filled the land.

Refrain

New light has dawned upon all the just, gladness for upright of heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you faithful ones. Give thanks to God's great name.

Refrain.

*RESPONSE

Lord of All Good

(Tune: Toulon #375)

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;
use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our who life is offered to Your will.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**As travelers long ago laid their gifts before the
manger, we too bring our gifts with great joy. Use
our gifts, and us, to bring justice and create peace.
May your light shine through us to all who live in
darkness. Amen.**

WE CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF 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 our thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*All who put their trust in Christ are invited to receive
the Sacrament, no one is excluded.* As we pass the
bread to one another say "(name) This is the body of
Christ for you." It is our custom to eat the Bread when
it is received. As we pass the cup to one another say
"(name) This is the blood of Christ for you." We hold
the cup and drink together when all have been served
(we use non-alcoholic grape juice).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as
living members of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the
Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into
the world in peace, and grant us strength and
courage to love and serve you with gladness and
singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *(Those who have announcements
are asked to please move to the front pews at this
time.)*

*HYMN #265 *Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand*

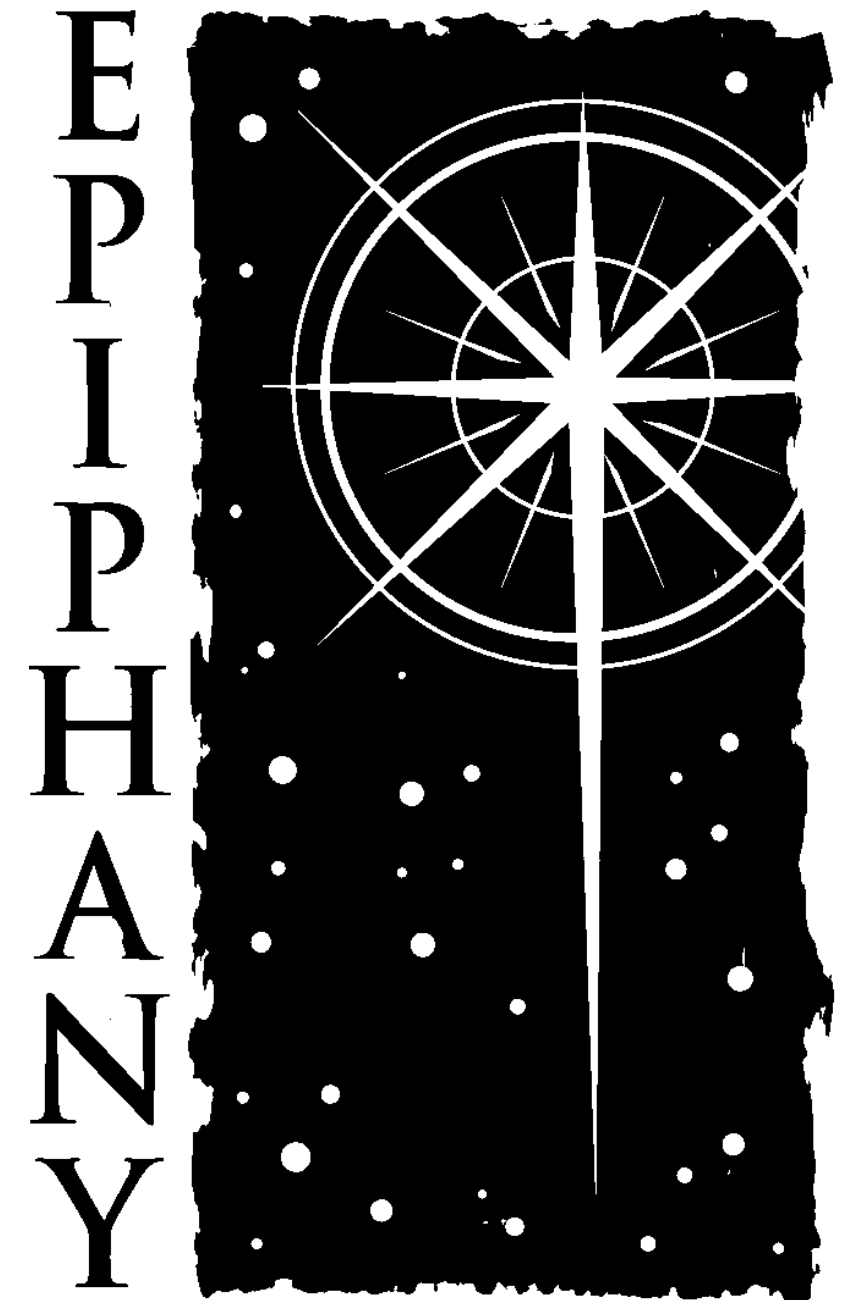
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #322 *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

POSTLUDE *How Beautiful the Morning Star* Armsdorff



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

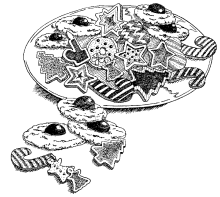
Worship 10:30 am
Sunday, January 3, 2010

SERVICE

Acolyte: Gina Wright
Liturgist: TBA
Greeters: Amanda Eldridge and Sunday School
Ushers: Michael Adzenyah, Joan Grant,
R. Sherwood Marchant, Rusty Spears.

Communion Stewards:

Preparation: Mildred & Tom McNeill
Restoration: Margo Darko, Sarah Labins
Serving: George & Carolyn Blick, Robert Burns, Pamela
Hauburger, Robin Herrera, Corinna Tamburini.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for refreshments and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship.

PASTOR'S HOURS

Monday: In the church office all day; please call, leave a message, and he will return your call.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: in the church office from 8:30-12:00; call or stop in.
Friday: Working at home; call, leave a message, and he will return your call.
Saturday: Day off.
Church office phone: 860-246-2224;
Rev. Feroe's home phone: 860-904-6467

††††

SESSION

<u>Class of 2010</u>	Holly Billings (Clerk of Session), Alice Evans, Samuel Hamilton, Juliana Mantey
<u>Class of 2011</u>	Susan Corrigan, Robin Herrera, Mildred McNeill, Gladys Wiafe
<u>Class of 2012</u>	Julius Aboagye, Jane Murray Yaa Okoampa-Sykes, (open)
THE BOARD OF DEACONS	
<u>Class of 2010</u>	Gretchen Fuchs, Carolyn Perkins, Keith Rhoden (Deacon Moderator)
<u>Class of 2011</u>	Michael Asare, Lloyd Brooks, Susan Labins
<u>Class of 2012</u>	Michael Adzenyah, Cynthia McPherson, Jean Nesbitt

Assisted listening devices and large print

bibles and hymnals are available near the entry to the sanctuary. The wireless listening system, similar to those used at the Bushnell and Hartford Stage, allows users to sit anywhere in the sanctuary.

Offering Envelopes are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

Intercessions

*In our First Presbyterian Church cycle of prayers,
we pray this week for:*

Michael Asare
Tamila Bent
Holly Billings, Mimi Nelson
George & Carolyn Blick
Diane Martin – Betty Gadson's niece.
Bob Spears – Rusty Spears' dad recovering after surgery.
Deborah Gadson
Kristin Moir Harvey (she continues treatment for leukemia).
Jerry Butler – who needs a kidney. He is the husband of Rachel Butler.
John & Dottie Brash
Jean Engquist and family. Jean has Alzheimer's and is in hospice. She is Bill Cooke's sister.
George Christinat– living with ALS. He is Keith Rhoden, Jr.'s neighbor.
The future of First Presbyterian Church.
First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT (Rev. Russ Feroe, Interim); Veterans' Administration Chaplaincy Program (Rev. J. Anthony "Tony" Charles).

Note: The first four (and final) entries are from rotational lists. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless we are notified to add or remove that person's name. Please fill out a prayer card, contact the pastor, an elder or the church office (860-246-2224 or fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net) to request changes to the list.

TODAY

Epiphany Celebrated
Un-greening of church

THIS WEEK

Wed., Jan. 6 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY

Baptism of the Lord

LOOKING AHEAD

Mon. Jan. 11	MLK Day Observed, Office Closed.
Tue. Jan. 12	6:00 PM Stewardship meeting 7:00 PM Session meeting.
Wed. Jan. 13	5:15 PM HOH meets in Johnstone Hall 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal.
Sun. Jan. 17	MLK Celebration in Worship

Church Announcements

For other opportunities and announcements please see the bulletin board(s) in Hodge Hall and office annex.

Personal Hygiene Items

When shopping, please keep an eye out for sales on items you can share with MANNA Food Pantry clients. Non-food items needed include combs, razors, toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and bar soap.



Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you haven't yet picked up your personalized box of numbered envelopes for weekly-- please do so today and save some postage. Thanks!

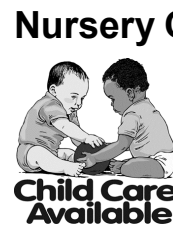
Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets the first and third Sundays of the month during the church year in the FPC library at 9:15 AM.

Jan. 17: "Civil Rights Talk: Letter from a Birmingham Jail" with guest speaker Al Benford, a Unitarian Universalist who was active during the Civil Rights Movement.

Feb. 7: Marla Ludwig (the "Backpacking Grandmother") will speak about the Dalive, Ghana school project.

The Abiding Memorials Book is open to the abiding gift given to the glory of God and in loving memory **those listed**, perpetuated in Robes and Stoles purchased in 2001.



Nursery Care is provided during the service in the Buchanan Room for children up to age 4. An usher will direct you to the location. **Shannon Hopkins** is the nursery director. **Augusta Jara** is the assistant. For safety's sake, please have a responsible adult drop off and pick up your child.

Flu Reminder

To help stop the spread of the flu be sure to wash your hands often, cough into a Kleenex or your elbow, and stay at home if you are sick.

Membership and Baptism— First Presbyterian Church, Hartford invites you to commit to membership as witness to your faith in Christ, and the mission of Christ as lived out in the life of this congregation. We receive members by affirmation of faith, or by reaffirmation or transfer of membership. Also, if you have an interest in baptism please see or e-mail Pastor Feroe at rferoe@sbcglobal.net or speak with one of the session members or other elder.

This is a welcoming Church, embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want you to feel a part of the family. There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. **We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your**

attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.

"Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA)."



First Presbyterian...Who Are We?

The downtown First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1851, is a richly diverse group of people from both city and suburbs, committed to ministry to and with the people of the City of Hartford.

We are building a warm and caring community that spiritually nurtures people in worship, education, fellowship and active involvement in mission.

We believe that the Church is called to reflect the kingdom of God which embraces all believers. We invite, accept and welcome into our membership and leadership people who differ by age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation and theological viewpoint. This diverse group energetically and cooperatively participates in the life of this congregation, its mission and its leadership. We are committed to our Presbyterian traditions of representative government and reformed theology, while open to working collaboratively in mission and ministry with other faith traditions.

First Presbyterian Church
136 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 0610624
fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net
www.firstpreshartford.org

