



2 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."



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.

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

Abington Presbyterian Church

January 7, 2024

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Epiphany of the Lord

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday
ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 7, 2024

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

O Christ, light made manifest as the true light of God,
gladden our hearts on the joyful morning of your glory; and give us grace to offer,
with all the hosts of heaven, unending praise to God. Amen.

PRELUDE

Three Kings of Orient

Janet Linker

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Nations shall come to your light
and rulers to the brightness of your rising.
The grace of God has dawned upon the world
with healing for all humankind.

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

(* -- Indicates all who are able may stand)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the 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 of 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.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN OF PRAISE 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
3. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

IN DULCI JUBILO

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST *Greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.*
The peace of Christ be with you ... **And also with you.**

ANTHEM Have You Seen the Newborn King?
Chapel Choir

Victor Johnson

Have you seen the newborn king, born, born, born in a manger?
Have you seen the newborn king, born today in Bethlehem?

Come and see the newborn king! (Born, born, born in a manger.)
The child of whom the angels sing! (Born today in Bethlehem.)
Wise men journeyed just to see him. (Born, born, born in a manger.)
A shining star that night did lead them! (Born today in Bethlehem.)

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *All Grades are dismissed to Sunday School*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6 p. 690
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 p. 533
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 p. 2
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON THE SEARCH *The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton*

*HYMN 152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THANKSGIVING and SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

Star Carol

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Refrain: See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully; Hurry to
Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer
"Sing rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!" *Refrain*

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping,
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary. *Refrain*

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary. *Refrain*

***DOXOLOGY HYMN 143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise:

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We join together in the prayer Christ taught his disciples, saying:

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, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Gifts of God for the people of God ... Let us keep the feast.

RECEIVING OF ELEMENTS

Please come forward to one of the stations for Communion today. Gluten free communion bread will be available in front of the lectern. Self-contained packets will be available at the middle of the sanctuary.

COMMUNION HYMN

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

As with Gladness

Wayne L. Wold

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

Liturgist: Bill Gustafson

Children's Message: Michelle Feil

Chapel and Chancel Choir: Mindy Walker, guest director

Organ: Shirley Keiter

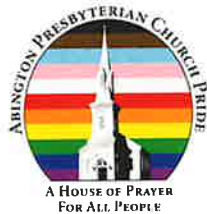
For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

Hearing assistant devices are available in the Narthex, please see an usher for assistance.

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In need of special prayers this week: Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Judy Meissner, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Laurie Betts, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Jennifer Edward (friend of Nick Cupo), Marilyn DeBacco (mother of Barb Foy), Ted Hyczko, Gordy Hawkinson (Nick Cupo's Uncle), Jen Klauder (friend of Cindi Willis), Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Jim Holman (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Paul Costello Family, Mary Ann Wherry, Miriam Whitten, Victor V. Johnson, Jr, Richard Decembrino family, Olive Biggs, Stephen Krewson, Kristine Biddle (mother of Isaiah and Kade Holt), Ed Messina, Gaylen Byker (friend of Sandra & Jim Holt and former member of APC).

Joys: Our church family would like to celebrate and share joys in our midst including the arrival of a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild in your family. Please let Susan in the office know about these happy events that we may share here.



Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

Phone: (215) 887-4530 Fax: (215) 887-5988 E-mail: jthornton@apcusa.org

Web Site: www.apcusa.org

The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton, Head of Staff

Tia McCoun, Congregational Care Associate

Ruth Ideen-Sall, Director of Christian Education

John Sall, Director of Music Ministries

Eric Meyer, Organist

Ashley Rossi & Justin Feil, Youth Fellowship Coordinators

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN LIFE

January 7, 2024

10:00 AM				
AGE/GRADE	ROOM	TEACHER	TOPIC	Pick Up
Birth– 2 year olds	110-112	Childcare	Childcare	110-112
Preschool	221	Sue Parsons	Mary & Joseph take Jesus to the Temple	221
K—2nd Grades	Richard Treat Room (71)	Connie Allgyer	Art	Parish Hall
3rd—5th Grades	Youth Lounge (72)	Miriam Sall	Drama	Parish Hall

Children ages 30 months through 5th grade attend Sunday School during the 10am service. Preschool classes start at 10am and are listed in the grid. Kindergarten through 5th graders start the worship service with their families and proceed to their classrooms after the Children's Moment. All children are welcome to attend Sunday School. If you are a visitor today, please feel free to accompany your child to his or her classroom.

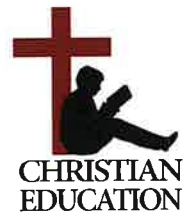


Nursery Care— is offered for children birth through toddler in the nursery and the toddler rooms (110 and 112)

Christian Education Offerings

8:45am

- Middle School Sunday School at 8:45am in the Parish Hall basement. All 6th - 8th graders are welcome to join us.
- Confirmation Class, contact Bill Stock for more information.
- Adult Education at 8:45am in the Parlor.
- For more information contact Ruth Sall at 215-887-4530 or rsall@apcusa.org.



A candidate to become APC's new **Pastor/Head of Staff** will be here for a "candidating" sermon on January 14 at 10:00am.
There is no 8:00am service that day.

There will be a congregational meeting following worship to approve the terms of call.

Join us next Sunday, January 14th, for Fellowship Hour after the Congregational Meeting.



Please join us today, after the worship service, for a de-greening of our facilities.
Thank You!

Mission Council thanks you for purchasing alternative gifts this Christmas season.

Gift giving from the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue purchased:

- 6 sets of farming tools
- 8 families of chickens that families around the world can raise to improve their food security, feathers for pillows and fertilizer for crops
- 8 kitchen kits
- 9 sewing machines to provide a steady source of income for a family in a developing part of the world
- 9 water filters
- 3 refuge food baskets
- 1 training opportunity for a teacher in a remote community
- 3 gifts of support for the women's empowerment project where women receive education and economic opportunity to access loans and credit services to help them care for their families.

This total amount of \$1,895 will help feed the hungry, comfort the brokenhearted, provide sustainable sources of income, and offer relief to families and communities in need. Basically, seeds of hope in the New Year.

Additionally, 28 Gift Cards, for a total of \$700, were purchased to bring Christmas joy to the children and families supported by Gemma Services. "This is the best day of my life!" exclaimed a child upon receiving (donated) Christmas gifts. Your giving showed these children and families how much they matter this holiday season.

Women's Gathering—January 18th at 11:30am.



Please join us on Thursday, November 16th at 11:30am at Bonnet Lane Restaurant located at 1720 Old York Road, Abington.

To RSVP or need additional information, please contact Sheila Jackson at dljskj@gmail.com

Join us for the **2024 Winter Picnic on Sunday, January 28th** after the 10am worship service. Our entertainment this year will be local musical group *Two of a Kind*. "TWO OF A KIND delights audiences of all ages with their music, good humor and audience participation. David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans of TWO OF A KIND love bringing people together and building community through music." Bring your own meal and perhaps a dessert to share. There will be tables and chairs for those who don't wish to sit on their own picnic blanket in front of the show. This musical show is for all ages. <https://twoofakind.com/>

APC GIVING

	YTD 11/30/23	YTD 11/30/22	Annual 2023 Budget
Income	\$582,074	\$582,967	\$658,500
Expenses	\$627,257	\$661,339	\$728,500
(Deficit)/Surplus	(\$45,184)	(\$78,372)	(\$70,000)

APPORTIONMENT FOR 2024

Please be aware that the Presbytery apportionment amount for this year is **\$32.00 per APC member, not per family!** These funds help to pay for staff at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels of our denomination.



PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA
CHRIST'S WORK ♦ OUR WITNESS

**Kindly make checks payable to
Abington Presbyterian Church**

You can mail or drop-off your payment at the Church Office.

YOUTH NEWS

TODAY

All Youth, don't forget to stay after the 10 a.m. service today to help de-green and take down Christmas decorations!

Still a few spots left for the FREE winter retreat to the YMCA of the Pines

RSVP to justinfeil4@gmail.com to attend

When: Jan. 12-14, 2024 (MLK weekend)

Where: YMCA of the Pines in Medford, NJ

Who: All 6th-12th graders welcome

What: Weekend retreat together with games, movie, arts and crafts, service

Cost: \$0!!!!!! All fees covered by Colton Fund!

High School students: Youth Sunday Planning

10-12 graders and any 9th grader not in confirmation can meet

8:45-9:30 on Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4 to plan details for the Feb.

11 Youth Sunday



Casserole Creating!

Who: Everyone!

What: Turkey Meat Loaf

When: January 14th after the 10:00 AM Service

Where: APC Kitchen

Why: To serve our friends at Face-to-Face



Mission Council will supply the ingredients, the recipe and the how-to. You provide the experience!

Music
at Abington presents

Harmonia V

Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.



performing works by
Barthe, Gershwin, Lefebvre, Shostakovich and Nielsen

Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA
livestream option available at www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington
free childcare • fully accessible • free will donations received

Save the Date

5th Annual MLK Day of Learning

**“Where Do We Go From Here:
Chaos or Community?”**



Join us as we reflect on and learn from
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s lasting gifts to
support the work of building community together

Sunday, January 14, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

654 N. Easton Road Glenside



This QR Code takes you to the donation
page on our APC website

