

January 5, 2025
10:30 a.m. | Chapel
2nd Sunday of Christmas

Gathering Around the Word

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Prelude

Star of Wonder (We Three Kings)

Arr. by Isadar

Welcome and Announcements

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

✦ **Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

Psalm 72 and Isaiah 60

Karen Jordan

Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

Darkness has been banished!

God's light of hope floods the earth

God's light comes to us all.

Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen.

✦ **Opening Hymn 401** (*verses 1, 3, and 4*) *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

**Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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✦ Please stand in body or in spirit.

Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Being Renewed in Grace

✦ **Call to Confession**

As we reflect on the magi following the star to find the Christ Child, we also reflect on what it is we follow in our own lives. We have been called to be stewards of hope, love, joy, and peace, but we have often turned away from our call for earthly pursuits, that make our egos big and our pride strong. For all the ways in which we have fallen short of God's expectations, we ask forgiveness.

(Time for Silent Confession)

✦ **Prayer of Confession**

Isaiah 60

God of light,

we live as if the light

had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the Christ

you sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season

and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

And nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.

It's time that we prepare for your coming.

Let the earth ring with song.

Let the light break forth.

Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.

Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

✦ **Assurance of Pardon**

✦ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

✦ **Sung Response 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. (Repeat)

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Anthem

Go Tell it On the Mountain
The Chancel Choir

Arr. by Robert A. Hobby

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

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Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Howard Thurman

Karen Jordan

In your Word proclaimed, Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me
Open unto me, light for my darkness, **Open unto me, courage for my fear**
Open unto me, hope for my despair, **Open unto me, peace for my turmoil**
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow, **Open unto me, strength for my weakness**
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion, **Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins**
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness, **Open unto me, love for my hates**
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself, **Lord, Lord, open unto me!**

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Karen Jordan

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD's glory has shone upon you.
Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations,
the LORD will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you.
Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance.
Lift up your eyes and look all around: they are all gathered; they have come to you.
Your sons will come from far away, and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you; the nations' wealth will come to you.
Countless camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah.
They will all come from Sheba, carrying gold and incense, proclaiming the LORD's praises.
God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2: 1 -12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Suspicious Minds

Rev. George Tatro

Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn**

Blessed Be Your Name

**Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where You streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name.
And blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name. (Refrain)**

**Refrain: Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name."**

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be Your name.
And blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name. (*Refrain*)

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
"Lord, blessed be Your name." (*Repeat*)

"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name." (*Repeat*)

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Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Like the magi who presented gifts to the newborn king, we now present our tithes and offerings to the one who reigns on high.

Offertory

One King

Jeff Borders/Gayla Borders/Lowell Alexander

Marilyn Davis, Betsy McDaniel, Heidi Chinnock

Kings of earth on a course unknown,
Bearing gifts from afar, hoping, praying, following yonder star.
Silhouette of a caravan painted against the sky, Wisemen searching for the holy Child.

One king held the frankincense,
One king held the myrrh,
One king held the purest gold,
One King held the hope of the world.

A star hangs over Bethlehem, a journey ends in the night.
Three kings trembling, behold the glorious sight.

Heaven's treasure, Emmanuel, drawing men to bow down.
Tiny Baby, born to wear a crown.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tiny Baby, born to wear a crown.

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✠Doxology *(all singing)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *and* The Lord's Prayer

God of majesty and light, You hold the world in Your hand. We praise You that in Jesus Christ all people may see Your glory. We thank You for revealing Jesus to be Your Son, and for claiming our lives in baptism to be His glad disciples. By Your Spirit, may peace descend upon us that we may follow Him with grateful hearts. Take us and all we have, to be useful in Your service, God of all nations, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Lord in your mercy, **hear our 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sealing of the Word

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Rev. George Tatro and Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

✠Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 853**

We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the light of God; We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God; We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching we are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching we are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing...

We are praying...

We are singing...

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✦ **Charge and Blessing**

✦ **Postlude**

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel

The ushers this morning are Rob Lawrence and Tom Tootle.

The greeter this morning is Helen Simpson.

The Stephen Minister this morning is Chris Irwin.

The Worship Leaders this morning are:

Rev. George Tatro, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave, Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship

Heidi Chinnock, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Amy Noel Welch, Collaborative Pianist

Karen Jordan, Liturgist

Communion Servers: Roy Davey, Debi Doverspike, and John Gutekunst

Upcoming Events at JCPC

As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.

For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.

2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Preschool is underway | jcpcusa.org/preschool

Text/Email Scam Alert

Please be aware that none of the church staff will ask you for money or gift cards.

If you receive this message from anyone, please delete it and do not act upon it.

Amani Women's Center

There are two plastic tubs in the Welcome Center. One is for sewing material and the other is for sewing notions. They will also accept working sewing machines. These will be taken to The Amani Women's Center to help with their work with west African women.

EXPLORE JCPC

New Member Information Class

Are you curious about the community of Johns Creek Presbyterian Church? We invite you to our 1-hour information session! Join us to learn more about:

- What We Believe
- Our Vision
- How We Serve
- How We Care for One Another
- Ways to Become Involved
- Q&A Session

Sunday, January 12th at 11:45 AM

-or-

**Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 PM
in the JCPC Dining Room**

RSVP

Contact Dawn Melin
to reserve your spot.

*(770)235-7628 or
dhmelin@comcast.net*





Session Elders

Class of 2024

Aisha Furtado (Youth Elder), Education Ministry Team
Dawn Melin, Mission Ministry Team
Zach Myers, Connecting Ministry Team
Rich Shuler, Stewardship Ministry Team
Tom Traylor, Clerk of Session and Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Class of 2025

Roy Davey, Worship Ministry Team
Marilyn Davis, Worship Ministry Team
Debi Doverspike, Mission Ministry Team
Vivek Furtado, Youth Ministry Team

Class of 2026

Craig Cunningham, Youth Ministry Team
John Gutekunst, Education Ministry Team
Alice Ann Nilsen, Caring Ministry Team
Jim Pope, Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Name Tags for Sundays

Please check on the round table in the Welcome Center for your name tag either before Sunday School or Worship. They will be in alphabetical order. If you don't have one, there are adhesive name tags you can use. There will be a clipboard with a list where you can add your name, and a name tag will be available for you the following Sunday. Please return your name tags to the table before leaving the church today.

Special note about our cameras

Welcome to worship! For many years, JCPC has recorded its worship services for those who are homebound or absent from worship. We are now able to Livestream the service from the worship hour. The worship leaders and the first few rows of the worship space are visible in these videos. The back rows are not visible in the Livestream or recording. Thank you for being with us this morning, and we hope you'll watch online when you can't be with us in person.

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