

Large Print Bulletins, Large Print Hymnals and Hearing Devices are available.  
Please ask an usher.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

The Congregation will speak aloud the bold print in responsive readings.

\* Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

*Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.  
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

*Please provide us a record of your attendance. Take the red friendship  
pad, sign your name, and pass it down the pew and back, noting the names of those  
worshipping with you. We encourage our guests to share your information that we might be  
aware of your presence with us.*

PRELUDE

*Prelude in C major, BWV 553*

J.S. Bach

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

**teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

**for you are the God of my salvation; for you I will wait all day.**

*(Psalm 25: 1-2, 4-5)*

\* HYMN NO. 145

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

CALL TO CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

Lord, the Psalmist reminds us that you are merciful.

**We ask that you not remember the sins of our youth alone.**

**May you hear our confessions with grace and love.**

Let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

Lord, your light shines in the darkness

**and the darkness does not overcome it.**

We've gathered here on Epiphany Sunday

to give thanks for the light you bring.

**It shines on all of us and on the entire world.**

The light you bring illuminates your goodness and mercy;

**it also reveals where we've fallen short and abandoned your ways.**

We enter this time together to expose our lives to your mercy.

**Hear our prayers of confession.**

For those things and people we've overlooked.

**Hear our prayers of confession.**

For the ways in which we've hid the light you provide.

**Hear our prayers of confession.**

For the times we've followed our own path using our own light.

**Hear our prayers of confession.**

Lord, your light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness doesn't overcome it.**

May it be so and may you hear these confessions with grace and love...

*(Silent Confession)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer -  
 cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*RESPONSIVE*)

May we experience God’s light as a gift and promise.  
**May we know that your grace and mercy are transformative.**  
 And may we join our voices together to proclaim  
**We are forgiven. Amen.**

\* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*RESPONSIVE*)

The peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you.**  
 Let us stand and greet one another with the sign of Christ’s peace.

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

*Gathered in God’s name, we now open ourselves to God’s life-giving Word.*

**TIME FOR THE CHILDREN**

<b>OLD TESTAMENT READING</b>	<i>EXODUS 3:7-15</i>	OT, P. 50
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> SPC Adult Choir Ethan Ezell, tenor	G. Holst
<b>GOSPEL READING</b>	<i>JOHN 8:12-20</i>	NT, P. 67
<b>SERMON</b>	<i>Christ’s Light Lights Our Path</i>	Rev. Ben Kane

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

*The proclamation of God’s Word invites responses of faith.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*RESPONSIVE*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

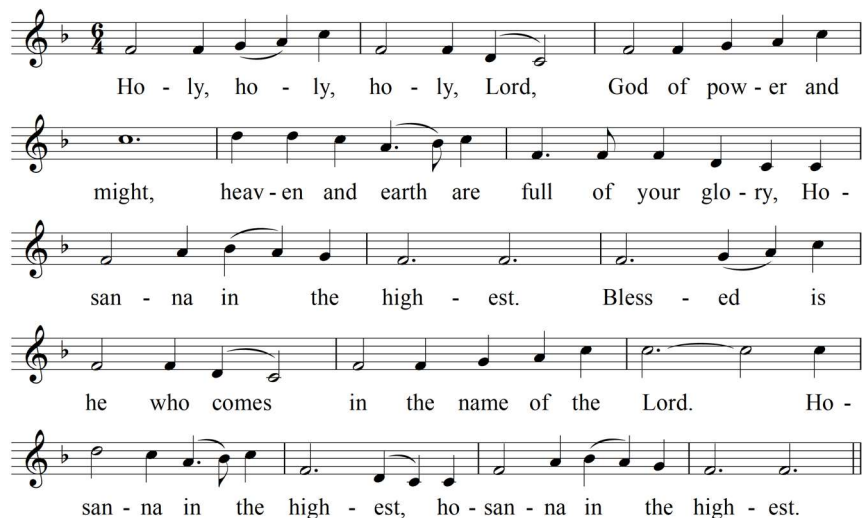
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are our God,  
 and we are creatures of your hand.  
 You made us from the dust of the earth,  
 breathed into us the breath of life,  
 and set us in your world to love and serve you.  
 When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom,  
 you did not reject us.  
 You loved us still  
 and called us to turn again to you  
 in obedience and in love.

Therefore, we praise you,  
 joining our voices with the heavenly choirs  
 and with all the faithful of every time and place.



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.

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
 And blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
 Out of your great love for the world,  
 you sent Jesus among us  
 to set us free from the tyranny of evil.

He lived as one of us,  
 sharing our joys and sorrows.  
 By his dying and rising,  
 he releases us from bondage to sin  
 and frees us from the dominion of death.



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God,  
 pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
 and upon these your gifts of bread and cup,  
 that the bread we break  
 and the cup we bless  
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
 By your Spirit, unite us with the living Christ  
 and with all who are baptized in his name,  
 that we may be one in ministry in every place.  
 As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
 Send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)**

**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**



### STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND INCLUSIVENESS

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.

We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

**THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE!** Beginning today, the Belonging Ministry will be hosting a church-wide lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of every month. We will gather at the Lord's Table during worship and then gather round our Great Hall tables to enjoy a delicious meal together. Our lunch after worship today will catered by Moe's Southwest Grill. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. While we will try to accommodate last minute folks, reservations are especially helpful in allowing us to have enough food. Sign-ups for lunch on Feb. 4 will begin next week. Contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)) for more information.

**OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ's work in the world. Contributions can be made to the 2023 Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate, through online giving at [secondpreslr.org/giving](https://secondpreslr.org/giving) or mailing a check to the church office, **600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227.**



**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE:** Those wishing to use weekly-dated envelopes may pick them up from one of the tables inside the Sanctuary doors.

### STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE



We are inching closer to our goal of funding a budget of \$2,500,000 to do the work God's called us to do here at Second Presbyterian Church. Many of you have generously pledged to fund this mission and we are praying that many more of you will commit in the coming days. As we enter this new year together,

we are aiming to close out the 2024 Stewardship Campaign of *Joining Christ on the Mountain* at the end of January with more participation than ever. Will you join Christ and us on the mountain?

Thank you to those who've pledged and for those who haven't, would you consider making a pledge to Second Presbyterian Church? You can do so online or by filling out an Estimate of Giving Card in the sanctuary or main office. And, just as importantly, would you pray for Second Pres. and all the faithful members and friends as well as the ministries inside and outside our church walls as we seek to be God's people today, tomorrow, and in 2024. To make your 2024 Estimate of Giving, complete the Estimate of Giving card located in the pews, go to the church website or use the QR code.



**DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS?** If so, you can watch past worship services on the church website at [secondpreslr.org](https://secondpreslr.org). To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, [karinhowze@secondpreslr.org](mailto:karinhowze@secondpreslr.org) or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the narthex and the church office.

### SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

600 PLEASANT VALLEY DRIVE  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

OFFICE: (501) 227-0000  
FAX: (501) 227-6513

CARE & CONCERN LINE: (501) 227-6117

[WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG](http://WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG)

**MIRIAM PROJECT TRAINING:** Today, following the 11:00 a.m. service and our church-wide lunch, the Children and Family Ministry will host a Miriam Project Training. The Miriam Project is the name of our protection policy to keep children and vulnerable persons in our congregation safe. We would love to have all of our Sunday School teachers, WACKY volunteers, Stephen Ministers, and those who work with our Afghan refugee families participate. If you have done Miriam Project training before, this will be a great refresher as you volunteer your time to serve our church. Please reach out to Maggie Kirchner, (501) 352-3245, or Leslie McCormack, (870) 391-6790, if you have any questions.

#### CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

**W.A.C.K.Y. Planning Meeting:** We want to plan with parents about how Wednesday programming can meet the needs of children and families. We will have a pop-up W.A.C.K.Y. on **January 31** from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will have dinner together from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall and programming from 6:00-6:30 p.m. with activities for children, activities for youth, and a conversation with parents between Ben and Bevan about future Wednesday programming.

**Worshipping Together Ministry Milestone:** 1st and 2nd graders are invited to join Rev. Ben for lunch on **January 21** following the 11:00 a.m. service to learn about the ministry milestone "Worshipping Together." Lunch will be provided. We will gather in the Great Hall. Please RSVP to Leslie: 870. 391.6790.

**January SPY Kids:** SPY Kids will kick off the new year by going bowling together pm on **January 21**. We will meet in the narthex following the 11:00 a.m. service. Plan on sending money for lunch; bowling will be covered. Please RSVP to Maggie 501. 352.3245. If you would like to chaperone, please reach out to Maggie; we will need at least 2 other parents willing to drive and hang out with us.

**CARE AND CONCERN LINE:** To learn of joys and concerns during the week, please call our Care and Concern Line (501) 227-6117. Unless noted as confidential, the joys and concerns you share with us are collected into a report which is recorded onto this voice mail message Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Join us in praying for the joys and needs of our congregation and community. To report joys and concerns or to get more involved in Pastoral Care, contact the office.

**A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALISA:** Grace to you, and I hope you celebrate with me a new year. I'm excited about a number of things in our congregation and hope you are with me in considering a few things exciting in my life. I will be away **January 7-22** in Texas for a week of continuing education at Austin Seminary, followed by a week of anticipated brand-new grandbaby hugs in Dallas. Historically, I've not been very good at taking time away, because my family has recently travelled to me. Ever since I entered seminary in 2004, I have been home base to my kiddos. Now it's my turn to go to them periodically like such a time as this! I expect highlights along the way that I'll want share with you when I return. While I'm away, my pastor colleagues and our fabulous diversely gifted staff will cover ministry well. We have a plan. And I'll keep you all in prayer, joining you as I'm able online. More when I return to you... In peace and joy, Alisa

#### SECOND HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY!

**GOD'S WORLD IN SELECTED POEMS BY EMILY DICKINSON:** Join us **today** and **January 14** for a delightful review of the enlightening works of Emily Dickinson, led by former Hendrix professor Chuck Chappell. No pre-reading required, but bring a cup of coffee to muse on the meaning and craft of one of America's most important poets, as her work continues to resonate and illuminate today.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:** On **January 21** and **28** we welcome UALR professor and Cotham lecturer Rebecca Glazier to speak insight into the history and ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, more details to come.

## JANUARY PREACHING SERIES

### *Claiming Our Identity: How Christ's 'I Am' Statements Form Us*

What shapes your life? Was it a person, a place, or maybe an experience? How was God involved? What is shaping your life now? These are big questions we'll be exploring at Second Presbyterian Church in our initial 2024 Preaching and Worship Series in January and early February. Using the 'I Am' statements from the Gospel of John, we'll discover how Christ's proclamations help form our identities. If you are asking the big questions about who you are and who God is, this series is for you. Join us at Second each Sunday in the new year at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. for worship and Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.

January 7: "I Am the Light of the World: Christ's Light Lights our Path"

John 8:12 (*Epiphany Sunday*)

January 14: "I am the Bread of Life: Being Fed by Christ"

John 6:35 (*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*)

January 21: "I Am the Gate and the Shepherd: Will You Trust Christ?"

John 10:7 and 11

January 28: "I Am the Resurrection: Salvation Through Faith"

John 11:25

## ONGOING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:50 A.M.

The *Seeking More Light* class meets in room 67. We are discussing Lost & Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude, and Happiness by Kathryn Schulz. The *Bible Study Class* on Zoom and in the Library at 9:30 a.m. remains focused on studying The Winter Uniform Series. Curriculum available digitally or printed free of charge. *Spiritual Nourishment* is reading Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott. Join them at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room or online Sundays. Newcomers always welcome as we slowly digest these wise, funny words from one of our favorite modern writers. *The Connections Class* meets in Room 62-63.

## RECEPTION FOR MARY IBIS

Please join us on **January 14**, following the 11:00 a.m. service, in Second Hall, to celebrate Mary Ibis, her family, and her twenty-two years of service to Second Presbyterian Church. We are very appreciative of all the hard work that Mary has done for us over the last twenty two years and she will be missed. Mary has played an integral role in the life of our church and she will be difficult to replace, as we begin the process of looking for our next member of the Music Ministry team. I would personally like to wish Mary the best of success in all future endeavors as a music educator for the LRSD board of education. Come join us January 14 and celebrate Mary and her music ministry here at Second Presbyterian Church.

**CHEESES WITH JESUS:** We are a dynamic community, bridging the gap between 'young adulthood' and retirement with grace and zeal. Our doors swing wide to welcome newcomers seeking spiritual enlightenment and treasured long-time members alike. We start our meetings with a time of fellowship and libations/food followed by study. Meeting in a member's home, we transcend the ordinary, embarking on a journey of connection and spiritual growth. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. In this new year, we will begin a new study: Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know by Barry A. Ensign-George and Eva Stimson. CWJ will meet Wednesday, **January 10** and **January 24** at the home of Philip and Leah Shell, # 5 Berwyn Drive. During our gathering time on January 10 we will tackle Chapter 1 of Six Themes of the Bible Everyone Should Know. On January 24, we will look at Chapter 2. Rev. Ben Kane will be our special guest that evening. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome.



**CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF  
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN!**



*commissioned May, 1992*

If you or someone you know is hurting and you would like more information about receiving Stephen Ministry care, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders.

Kay Combs 501-517-5007  
Cathy Crass 501-951-5890  
Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966  
Jana Villemez 501-517-1474  
JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care  
Rev. Alisa Secrest 501-227-0000

**STEPHEN MINISTRY  
GIVING COMFORT, LIFTING SPIRITS**

**A WEATHER REMINDER:** Weekday church events are canceled and the church office is closed if the Little Rock Public Schools are canceled or dismissed due to weather.

**USHER/GREETER VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS APPRECIATED:** Those who serve as ushers and greeters for our worship service are providing a ministry of hospitality for members and visitors to our church. Along with providing an important leadership role for worship, those who serve as ushers and greeters are also afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside other members of the congregation. You may contact the following deacons who serve as usher captains to volunteer as ushers or greeters.

**JANUARY WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS**

**8:30 A.M.**

(1/14) Matthew Smith  
(1/21) Dan Voth  
(1/28) Matthew Smith

**11:00 A.M.**

(1/14) Emma Ryall  
(1/21 and 1/28) Galen Wenger



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Worship 8:30, 11:00  
Sunday School 9:50  
Family Ministry Lunch 12:00  
\*Miriam Project Training 12:00  
Young Adult Lunch 12:00  
Basketball 4:20  
Middle School SPY 5:30  
SPY Dinner 6:30  
High School SPY 7:00

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Monday Pastoral Care 1:30  
Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00  
Personnel Committee 4:30  
Stephen Ministry 6:00  
Volleyball 7:00

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00  
Staff Meeting 9:00  
PW Gathering 10:00  
Card Making 1:00  
Environmental Stewardship 5:30

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Adult Choir 6:30  
Youth Basketball Practice 6:45

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Young Adult Bible Study 7:00

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Our House Cook Team 3:00

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Hohlfelder Prayer Garden Service  
11:00

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Worship 8:30, 11:00  
Sunday School 9:50  
Young Adult Lunch 12:00  
Basketball 4:20  
Middle School SPY 5:30  
SPY Dinner 6:30  
High School SPY 7:00

\* Denotes announcement in bulletin