

Ephesians 1:3-14
(The Kingdom New Testament Translation)

3 Let us bless God, the father of our Lord Jesus, the king! He has blessed us in the king with every spirit-inspired blessing in the heavenly realm. 4 He chose us in him before the world was made, so as to be holy and irreproachable before him in love. 5 He foreordained us for himself, to be adopted as sons and daughters through Jesus the king. That's how he wanted it, and that's what gave him delight, 6 so that the glory of his grace, the grace he poured on us in his beloved one, might receive its due praise.

7 In the king, and through his blood, we have deliverance—that is, our sins have been forgiven—through the wealth of his grace 8 which he lavished on us. Yes, with all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the secret of his purpose, just as he wanted it to be and set it forward in him 10 as a blueprint for when the time was ripe. His plan was to sum up the whole cosmos in the king—yes, everything in heaven and on earth, in him.

11 In him we have received the inheritance! We were foreordained to this, according to the intention of the one who does all things in accordance with the counsel of his purpose. 12 This was so that we, we who first hoped in the king, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you too, who heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed it—in him you were marked out with the spirit of promise, the Holy One. 14 The spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the time when people who are God's special possession are finally reclaimed and freed. This, too, is for the praise of his glory.

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“God’s ‘D.E.I.’ Program”



Elder Darryln Tarantino
Sunday, January 5, 2025
10:30 AM Divine Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP
JANUARY 5, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*is the invitation for worshipers to rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Stilling Silence

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

He heals the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds.

He counts the stars, and calls them each by name.

How great is our God! His power is absolute, and his understanding, beyond comprehension.

So come, sing out your thanksgiving to God. Offer to God the worship that belongs to Him alone.

***Opening Hymn:** *“Praise to Our Creator”*

BLUE #970

John 1:1-13
(The Kingdom New Testament Translation)

Let us prepare for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of the Holy Scriptures. **Speak Lord, for Your servants are listening.**

1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was close beside God, and the Word was God. 2 In the beginning he was close beside God.

3 All things came into existence through him; not one thing that exists came into existence without him. 4 Life was in him, and this life was the light of the human race. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man call John, who was sent from God, 7 He came as evidence, to give evidence about the light, so that everyone might believe through him. 8 He was not himself the light, be he came to give evidence about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to every human being, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to anyone who did accept him, he gave the right to become God’s children; yes, to anyone who believed in his name. 13 They were not born from blood, or from fleshly desire, or from the intention of a man, but from God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 5, 2025

COFFEE WITH PASTOR

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

DEACONS FUND

Our next monthly Deacon's Fund offering will be Sunday, January 19, 2025. This offering helps our church serve the needs of our community in times of crisis. Please consider giving to this important fund.

THE ARTS@CHURCH CONTINUES!

Come hear guest artist Lamis Shams give a vibrant recital program featuring the music of Bach, Heitor Villa-Lobos, and contemporary Egyptian composer Mauna Ghoneim. January 18th, 5pm at the Fellowship Hall.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S ANNUAL MLK COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join the community to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King! Come enjoy a breakfast buffet, student performances, and hear from community leaders. Our keynote speaker this year is Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. Tickets are \$60, and proceeds go toward a scholarship program to benefit college-bound high school students. Monday, Jan 20th, 8:30 a.m. at the Somerset DoubleTree. Visit FTMLK.org to purchase tickets.

SAVE THE DATE: GAME SHOW NIGHT!

Mark Feb. 1st on your calendars, because SMR is bringing in a professional entertainer to host a night of smiles, laughter, and fellowship! Tell your friends, because you play the games as a team! Stay tuned for more details.

Call to Remember and Confess

Responsive Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day,

We offer the truth of our lives

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that blinds us,

The ignorance that hobbles us,

The doubt that plagues us

Help us this year to find courage in unlikely places,

See the world with new and gracious eyes

Move towards the people and places where love is needed,

Have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Personal Silent Confession

Words of Assurance:

Gloria: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* RED #82

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

***Passing of The Peace** L: The peace of Christ be with you!
 P: And also with you!
 L: Share the peace of Christ with your neighbor!

THE WORD OF GOD

Let us prepare for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of the Holy Scriptures. **Speak Lord, for Your servants are listening.**

Scriptures: John 1:1-13 (Page 7)
Ephesians 1:3-14 (Page 8)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “God’s ‘D.E.I.’ Program.”

Hymn of Mediation: “*Spirit of The Living God*” RED #749
(v. 2 only)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Call to Self– Offering

Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory:

***Doxology:** “*Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God, the God of Israel*”

Now blessed be the Lord Our God, the God of Israel,
For he alone does wondrous Works: his glorious deeds excel;
for he alone does wondrous works: his glorious deeds excel.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gathering of Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People & The 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 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.**

***Closing Hymn:** “*They’ll Know We Are Christians*” RED #256

*Benediction

Postlude

Today’s liturgical color is **White** for the First Sunday after Epiphany.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be so filled by the spirit of God that we obey God’s revealed will in the Holy Scriptures, especially in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; loving one another, stewarding the resources God has given us and seeking to be transformed into the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, being his hands, feet and voice in the communities in which we live and work.