

January 7, 2024 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Epiphany of the Lord Observed
Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

GATHER TO WORSHIP

*As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please
turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Bell of Invitation
Welcome & Announcements

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather wondering,

'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

Leader: We gather asking,

'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted
with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

Leader: We gather wanting to know,

'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**People: We will find our hope where fear is overwhelmed
by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love.**

*Hymn #151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" KINGS OF ORIENT

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

**We search for your light, Creator God, but too often end
up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives
for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we
expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes
for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success,
fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of
compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Merciful God, that we are so foolish to put
our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those
wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a
destination; who found grace, instead of acclaim; who
found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with
your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with
the light of your joy and love. ((Time for silent prayer)
Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy

Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10
may leave to meet with the Director of Family Ministries for
a time of lesson and activity.)*

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Benedictus"

Brian Lewis

Gospel Reading -- Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Star Gazing"

Rev. David Bowman

*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 Ghost, 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.**

The **Membership & Outreach Committee** will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Truth & Reconciliation Zoom Group** will meet on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The **deadline to submit reports for the annual written report to the congregation** is January 12. Please make sure your report is to Carol Belles on or before that date.

A **Service of Witness to the Resurrection** in memory of Arlene Filson will be held on Saturday, January 13 at 11:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary. A reception will follow.

Confirmands will meet on Sunday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m.

The **Scripture Reading** for next Sunday is Mark 1:4-11.

This year's **Martin Luther King Day of Service** will be on Monday, January 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in fellowship hall. Participants will be making meal bags for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Plan to come out and work together to help those in need.

The **annual meeting of the congregation** to elect elders, deacons and members of the officer nominating committee, as well as any other business as set by the session, will be on Sunday, January 28 immediately following the morning service of worship.

Thank you to each person who loaned a nativity to be displayed in the sanctuary windows during the Advent/Christmas season. Feel free to take your nativity with you after today's service.