

† Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship—*Dr. Lisa Hancock*

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: “Arise, shine; for your light has come.”

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

As we turn to a new year, may we turn to a God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.

† *Opening Hymn* Good Christian Friends, Rejoice UMH 224

† *Hymn* What Child is This UMH 219

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, you not only spoke through angels and prophets from long ago, but you still speak to us today. Open our ears to hear a word you have for us and open our hearts to receive that word today. Speak to us, Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1 Herb Schwarze

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-13

Reader: this is the word of God for us the people of God, thanks be to God!

The Immigrants Creed by Jose Luis Casal is the Pastor in Midland, TX

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the

oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God’s kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers. I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God’s people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Offering and Song

“Kyrie” by Mr. Mister

The Doxology (to the tune on UMH 95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One.
Amen.



QR Code to PUMC Giving

† *The Doxology*

Sermon

Rev. Rachel Randall

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, even when our love failed, God's love never fails. Even while we were yet sinners, God gave his only Son. This proves God's love towards us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People (to leader): in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

† *Passing of the Peace*

At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them unto the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Service of Holy Communion continues in your hymnals...UMH 15-16)

The children may return from the nursery to receive Holy Communion

Prayer following Holy Communion

Lord, we give You thanks for You having met us in this holy meal and having given Yourself to us. May this meal inspire us to share You with others, as You have shared yourself with us. Empower us to now go forth strengthened to be Your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

Installation of New Administrative Board Leaders

† *Closing Hymn* Wounded World that Cries for Healing **TFWS 2177**

† *Benediction* Rev. Rachel Randall

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

Please Join us for a Potluck Immediately Following the Service

Parkwood United Methodist Church



“Christ in the House with his Parents,” Millais, John Everett, 1829-1896

Time to Begin, Again

**Sunday, January 5, 2025 • 1st Sunday after
Christmas**