

January 7, 2024

First Sunday after Epiphany

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow the commandments and the law. The law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world. Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN 749

Come! Live in the Light!

PRAYER

OPENING MUSIC

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you placed us in the world to be its salt.

We have been afraid of committing ourselves, afraid of being stained by the world.

We did not want to hear what others might have to say.

And our salt dissolved as if in water.

Forgive us, Lord.

God, you placed us in the world to be its light.

We were afraid of the shadows, afraid of not having enough.

We did not want to know other people's struggles.

And our light slowly faded away.

Forgive us, Jesus.

God, you placed us in the world to live in the community.

Thus you taught us to love, to share in life,

to strive for peace and justice, Your truth incarnate in our lives.

So be it, Jesus. Amen

(silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

HYMN 795 (Refrain only) *"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

***HYMN 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5: 13 - 16

SERMON

"Taking Our Cues"

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

ANTHEM

"Beautiful Star"

from *"A Weary World Rejoices"*

by Joseph M. Martin

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDERS

There are varieties of gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit

to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ,

and individually members of it.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MUSIC

***HYMN 767**

Together We Serve

BENEDICTION

***Please stand in body or spirit**

Announcements

Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday! We hope you will find it to be an uplifting and meaningful experience. If you are a **guest or visitor**, we invite you to stop by our information desk in the Narthex (entry space). We have a gift for you as well as some information about our wonderful community of faith. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact information, we invite you to also fill out a visitor card.

Families with young children are invited to stop by the children's corner in the Narthex. Here you can check in your children for nursery care and staff can direct you to our downstairs classrooms. There are also worship/activity bags available.

Thank you, Elder Class of 2023 and Welcome Class of 2026!

Thank you to the outgoing Elder Class of 2023: **Stan Dixon, Evelyn Nadler, Howard Pace, and David Wallace!** **Kris Kattmann** will be staying on for another term. Please help us welcome our 2026 Class of Elders: **Gary Anderson, Mary Cuadras, Greg Rehtin, and Leslie Webb.**

Starmount Connects - check out the Starmount Connects board in the Narthex for a special event on Sat. Jan. 20 to raise funds for Out of the Garden. This singer/songwriter event features members and friends of Starmount!

There is still time to **invest in the impact that Starmount Presbyterian** has on our own church community, our local Greensboro community, and the world. Session will be approving a budget for fiscal year 2024 in the next few weeks - please prayerfully consider making a pledge if you have not done so already.

2024 Offering Envelopes - Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex to pick up 2024 Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are not named or numbered. You have the option to pick up envelopes for weekly or monthly donations.

Just Lunch - Join us January 21 following worship for lunch at K&W Cafeteria. Visitors are welcome as our guests. Children are welcome as well!

We have a **new way to sign up for flowers!** We have placed a sign-up calendar in the Narthex so you can sign up for a Sunday. Please use the dry erase pen that is next to the calendar. Or you can email Jinny Buchanan at jinnybug@mindspring.com or call her at 336-549-4674.

Plastics Recycling Update – We have reached our goal of 500 pounds of plastic film recycling and will be getting a bench from Trex in recognition of that accomplishment. Congratulations! We will continue to collect plastics at the church until the end of January, but after that you can take it to any grocery store. Thank you all!

Homework Helpers meets weekly on Thursday from 4-5:30pm. We need transportation, snack and dinner providers, and homework helpers to work with students. Contact Laura (laura@starmountpres.org) for more information!

Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Sarah Downey, Director of Music

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson Hadas, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries



**Welcome to Sunday Worship
January 7, 2024 · 10:00 a.m.**