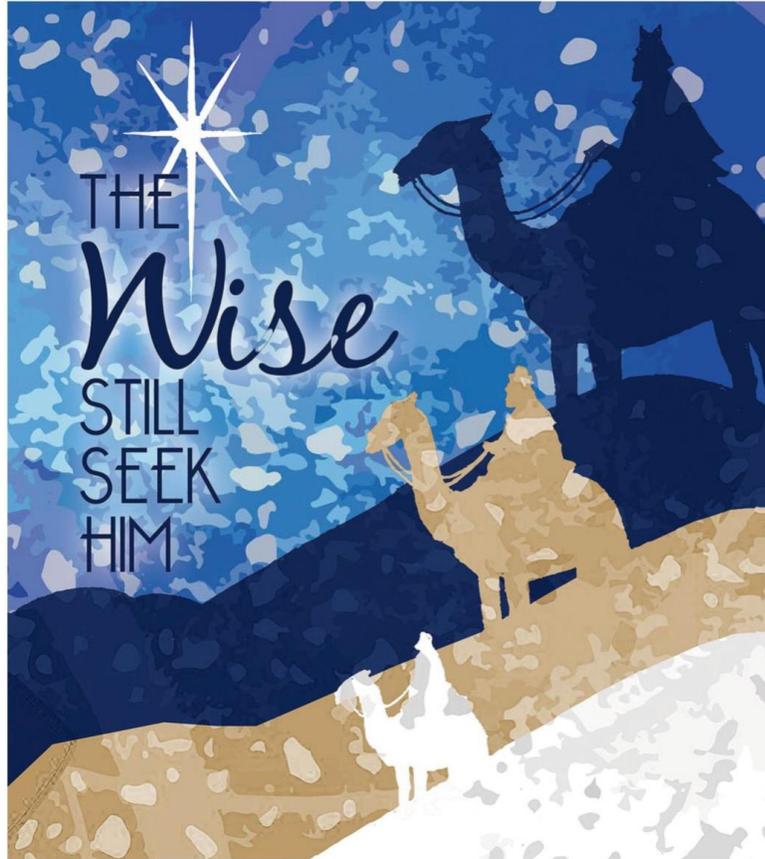


The United First Presbyterian Church  
of Amwell at Larison's Corner



The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Pastor

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Email: [pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org](mailto:pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org)  
[www.larisonscorner.org](http://www.larisonscorner.org)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP JANUARY 9, 2022 11:00 AM  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**GREETING AND WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Have you seen the star of Bethlehem? Arise, people of God; let it shine in your lives.

**People: We have seen Christ's star and have come to worship.**

Leader: Come from the shadows of the earth to the light of God's love.

**People: We see the glory of God in our midst and our hearts rejoice in expectation.**

Leader: The promises of the Gospel are for us, and for all people everywhere.

**All: Let us Worship God!**

**HYMN AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD** *(Tune- For The Beauty of the Earth)*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold, as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright, so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore, so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down. There forever may we sing alleluias to our King!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* Let us confess before God and one another, the ways in which we walk bent over with worry, and miss the reach of the stars. God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness and a star in every sky. Yet, we prefer to cover over the light of possibility, and walk in the darkness of despair and worry. We forget that there is never a moment that you are not with us. We forget that your Son was called Immanuel, which means "God with us." You bring to us a candle of hope, the light of peace, and the radiance of joy. Shine your light on our path and walk with us through all our valleys, we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GLORIA PATRI** 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.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS / WAVING THE PEACE**

### **A TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG**

#### **HYMN GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy

#### **OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6**

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 12:1-12**

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**MEDITATION – “Wise Men Still Seek Him”**

### **HYMN – WE THREE KINGS**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a Babe on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. . O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, long and raising, worshiping God on high. . O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

## **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**DOXOLOGY** - Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Upcoming Birthdays/Anniversaries: Tommy Bethman, January 13*

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**AN AFFIRMATION AT CHRISTMAS** - I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: I believe in the one who by love brought sinners back to purity and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem that night, for me and for the world.

## **HYMN – MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU**

May the Good Lord bless you and keep you, Whether near or far away,  
May you find that long awaited golden day today. May your troubles all be small  
ones, And your fortunes ten times ten, May the good Lord bless and keep you, Till  
we meet again.

May you walk with sunlight shining, And a songbird in every tree, May there  
be a silver lining, Back of every cloud you see, Fill your dreams with sweet  
tomorrows, Never mind what might have been, May the Good Lord bless and keep  
you, Till we meet again.

May you walk with sunlight shining, And the songbird in every tree, May there  
be a silver lining, Back of every cloud you see, Fill your dreams with sweet  
tomorrows, Never mind what might have been, May the Good Lord bless and keep  
you, Till we meet again. May the Good Lord bless and keep you, Till we meet, till  
we meet again.

## **BENEDICTION**

WELCOME TO LARISON'S CORNER! We are pleased you are here with us. We hope you feel the warmth of God's love in our fellowship and worship. It is our hope that you return again soon. Until then, may God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hands. Happy New Year!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP INSIDE every Sunday at 11 AM!** - Worship is live-streamed on Facebook at 11 AM; Recordings of worship available at a later date.

**SESSION MEETS THIS TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 7:30 PM**

**Winter Craft Night, Wednesday January, 19, 6:30-8:30 PM** Come join us as we make prayer beads and two other winter-themed crafts. This event is open to the public, so spread the word!

**Trivia & Game Night, Monday, January 31, 6:30-8:30 PM** We hope you will join us for a fun night of Trivia and Games. This event is open to the public and we hope to have lots of people there!

**Share Your Resources to Support the Ministry of Larison's Corner** – Ways to Give: 1. Leave a gift in the **worship offering** via cash or check; 2. **Mail in a gift** via check to Larison's Corner Church, PO Box 348, Ringoes, NJ 08551; 3. Give Online through "Tithely" You can make an online gift, by visiting our website link at:

<https://larisonscorner.org/contributions/>. You may also give on Facebook in our "about" section or by clicking here: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4558529> - Once you are in Tithely, you can set up a one-time gift, ongoing gifts, or a special gift. *\*Give today by using your camera on your cell phone over the image to the right and following the link to make your donation.*



## **Session**

(Session meetings are the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

### **Class of 2021**

Betty Jane Biache  
Ruth Chiesa

### **Class of 2022**

Dianne Fleming

### **Class of 2023**

Lysa Reiter  
Lois Riggs  
Charlie Rogers

## **Other Ordained Elders**

David Bond

Bill Heilman

Paula Melbourn

Donna DeVico

Arlene Knaub

Jodi Reed

Judy Grignon

Marlene Lambert

## **Board of Trustees**

(Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

### **Class of 2021**

Kyle Bond

### **Class of 2022**

John Chiesa

David Everitt

### **Class of 2023**

Bill Kurylo

Treacy Weeks

## **Corner Club**

President - Lois Riggs / Vice President – Kathy Kovacs

Secretary - Ruth Chiesa / Treasurer - Barri-Lynn Everitt

**The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie**, Stated-Supply Part-Time Pastor

**Luke Kirby**, Treasurer / **Deborah Kacerek-Cooley**, Assistant Treasurer

**Lois Riggs**, Clerk of Session

**Sue Mannino**, Organist Emeritus