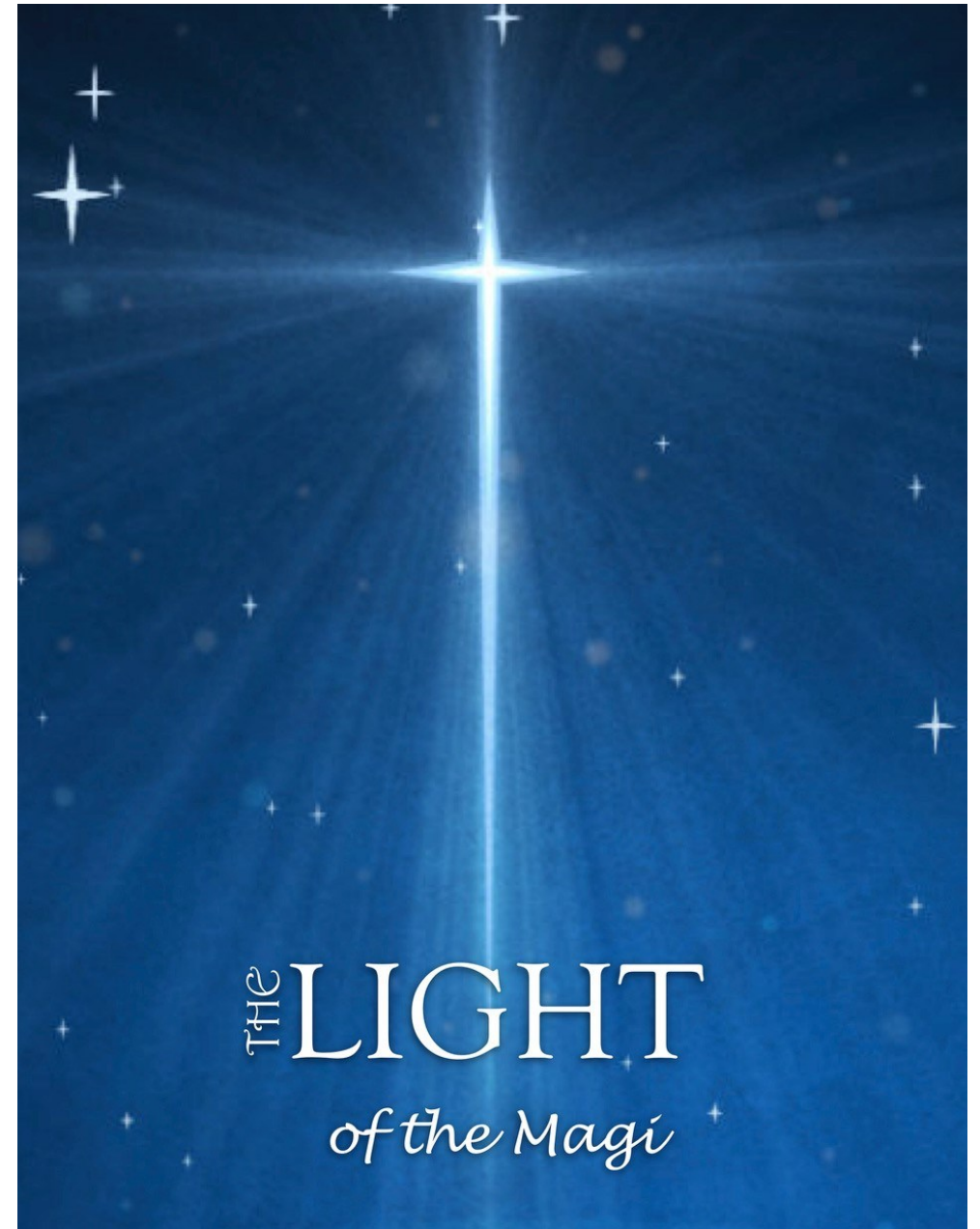




First Presbyterian Church

410 Second Avenue | PO Box 441 | Sterling, IL 61081 | (815) 625-0452



Just a reminder that you can still access our services online! The church Facebook page will feature a link as soon as the service is posted, and the church website will also have the link. You can also give online! Just scan the QR code below or head to [bit.ly/FPCsterling](https://www.firstpresbyteriansterling.org). If you need more information or you'd like to get the sermons via snail mail, just call the church office and leave a message: 815-631-1056

www.firstpresbyteriansterling.org

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Sterling-IL-105190307925/>



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

January 2, 2022

God's People Gather

Prelude Pondering

Have you ever made an unplanned detour in a road you had mapped out for a travel destination? Or, ... have you ever had to rethink a decision you had made regarding the course of your life's journey? Was it a decision calling for change that affected only you, or did it have an impact on others; your family, your community, your country, or all humanity?

Threshold Moment

*Call to Worship

Leader: Awaken! The Messiah is born. His light shines upon you!

People: It is the true light, the light of God.

Leader: It is the light of God's creation that no darkness can dim.

People: God's people stand as witnesses to this light.

Leader: The star over Bethlehem guided lowly shepherds as well as royal kings from afar.

People: It guides people of all nations and in all times.

All: Let us worship the God who sent his son to save us.

*Opening Song We Three Kings

Prayer of Confession

Loving Creator, we live in a weary world which is suffering in so many ways. We know what you would want us to do to help your people, but so often we think of ourselves first, neglecting to love our neighbor as ourself. Lord, as your children help us to care for all those in need. They are hungry, hurting, and curled up in silence feeling forgotten in a world that just doesn't feel fair. Guide us in reflecting your light so that in this new year we might be caregivers for all people, bringing hope, peace, and love to all those in need. Merciful father, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends believe in God, whose son Jesus Christ was born in a manger under the most brilliant of stars. Believe in the good news of God's mercy and grace.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Response** Gloria in Excelsis Deo

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Response** Dona Nobis Pacem

God's Word is Proclaimed

Choir Anthem Bethlehem Bound

Children's Message

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Light of the Magi

Responding to God's Word

Offering

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People Are Sent

***Closing Song** The First Nowell

*Benediction

Leader: And let all God's People say...

People: Alleluia, Amen!

***Response** God Bless Us Everyone

Postlude

Thank you to our guest preacher, Audrey Nesbitt.