

ANTHEM

“Child of Love”
Jordan Skowron, Soloist

Matthew West

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40
(page 958 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

“Simeon and Anna”

Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 63
(The blue hymnal in the pew rack)

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Christmas Bells”

Robert W. Thygerson

Special thanks to our liturgist Scott Hughes

The Elder of the Week is Wendy Boody

STAFF

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Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea
Director of Music: Ron Bernhardt
Office Manager: Cindy Neil
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey
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Elfinwild Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship

December 31, 2017

*You are invited to use Scripture for reflection
or the following prayer as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2

PRELUDE “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” Dennis Alexander
Noah Heere, Pianist

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine, for Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

People: See, the darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

Leader: but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.

People: Nations will come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your dawn.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 66 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”
(The blue hymnal in the pew rack)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Words of Introduction

Questions to the Parents – Andrew and Gillian (Wershale) Orbison

Questions to the Congregation

Presentation of Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Baptism of Mila Grace Orbison

Song (See Insert) “Baptismal Song”

CALL TO CONFESSION

John 3:19

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Bethlehem star, everyone is searching for Your light shining in the face of Christ. The Magi sought Christ simply to worship Him. But Herod sought Him to appease his jealous anger. We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure.

We do not come simply to worship: we come to Christ, asking His benefits of reassurance, health, wealth; asking Him to fulfill the hundred petitions for the not-so-important requests that we heap before Him. But the Magi sought first the kingdom.

Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own need in perspective, worshipping the Christ in love, content to be in Your presence, and laying our gifts before You. Then may we journey, trusting that Your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Friends, receive and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “You’re Here” Francesca Battistelli
Jordan Skowron, Soloist

*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.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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