**CHILDREN’S BULLETIN**

**FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**JANUARY 10, 2021**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| When you see this symbol | Let’s do this together |
|  | = Sing, Sway, Shake your Egg Shakers or Dance to the Music |
| A picture containing handwear, tableware  Description automatically generated | = Let’s Bow Our heads and Pray Together as a Church Family (Listen to the words OR Read along if you can) |
| **Image result for Cartoon Characters Praying Clip Art** | = Let’s Say The Lord’s Prayer Together |
| Growing Together in God's Promises Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Epiphany 4 ... | Listen closely to the Children’s Message |
|  | During this time, as you listen to the stories from the bible and the sermon, please enjoy the activities found on the last pages of the Children’s Bulletin or other coloring activities throughout the bulletin. |

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A picture containing handwear, tableware

Description automatically generated One: The magi came from many places, following a star.

**Many: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.**

One: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**Many: We too bring gifts – ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.**

One: Shepherds and magi – the meek and the mighty – all were welcome

in Bethlehem.

**Many: We too come to Bethlehem and then return to our homes rejoicing.**

**HYMN: We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar.

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

**Refrain:**

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,

King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.

Prayer and praising all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume Breaths a life of gathering gloom.

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Sing the Refrain again!)

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Description automatically generated**INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)**

God of gold, we seek your glory: the richness that transforms our drabness into color, and brightens our dullness with vibrant light; your wonder and joy at the heart of all life. God of incense, we offer you our prayer: our spoken and unspeakable longings, our questioning of truth, our searching for your mystery deep within. God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering: the pain of all our rejections and bereavements, our baffled despair at undeserved suffering, our rage at continuing injustice; and we embrace you, God-with-us, in our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss. Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE**: Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;

 Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

**Time Especially for Children**

Let’s sing “Jesus loves me”

Come in close and bring your listening ears

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

**What were some words that stuck out to you during Children’s Time?**

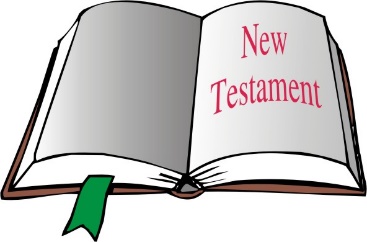
**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION** followed by

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**:

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Description automatically generatedOur 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.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US**

**NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 3:1-22 The Message Translation**

1-6 In the fifteenth year of the rule of Caesar Tiberius—it was while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, ruler of Galilee; his brother Philip, ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias, ruler of Abilene; during the Chief-Priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—John, Zachariah’s son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet: Thunder in the desert! “Prepare God’s arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! Every ditch will be filled in, every bump smoothed out, The detours straightened out, All the ruts paved over. Everyone will be there to seeThe parade of God’s salvation.” 7-9 When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God’s judgment? It’s your life that must change, not your skin. And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as ‘father.’ Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and blossoming? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.” 10 The crowd asked him, “Then what are we supposed to do?” 11 “If you have two coats, give one away,” he said. “Do the same with your food.” 12 Tax men also came to be baptized and said, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He told them, “No more extortion—collect only what is required by law.” 14 Soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He told them, “No shakedowns, no blackmail—and be content with your rations.” 15 The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?” 16-17 But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.” 18-20 There was a lot more of this—words that gave strength to the people, words that put heart in them. The Message! But Herod, the ruler, stung by John’s rebuke in the matter of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, capped his long string of evil deeds with this outrage: He put John in jail. 21-22 After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

**Sermon:** **“Open Up the Sky with Praying”**

**During this time, as you listen to the sermon, please enjoy the activities found on the last pages of the Children’s Bulletin**

**HYMN # 261 Let Every Christian Pray**

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Was not the church we love

Commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth,

To seek and save the lost. God never has withdrawn,

Since that tremendous dawn, the gifts of Pentecost.

**Invitation to Generosity**: Think about how you would like show LOVE to God, others and yourself this week

**\*DOXOLOGY**

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Pastor Deborah)**

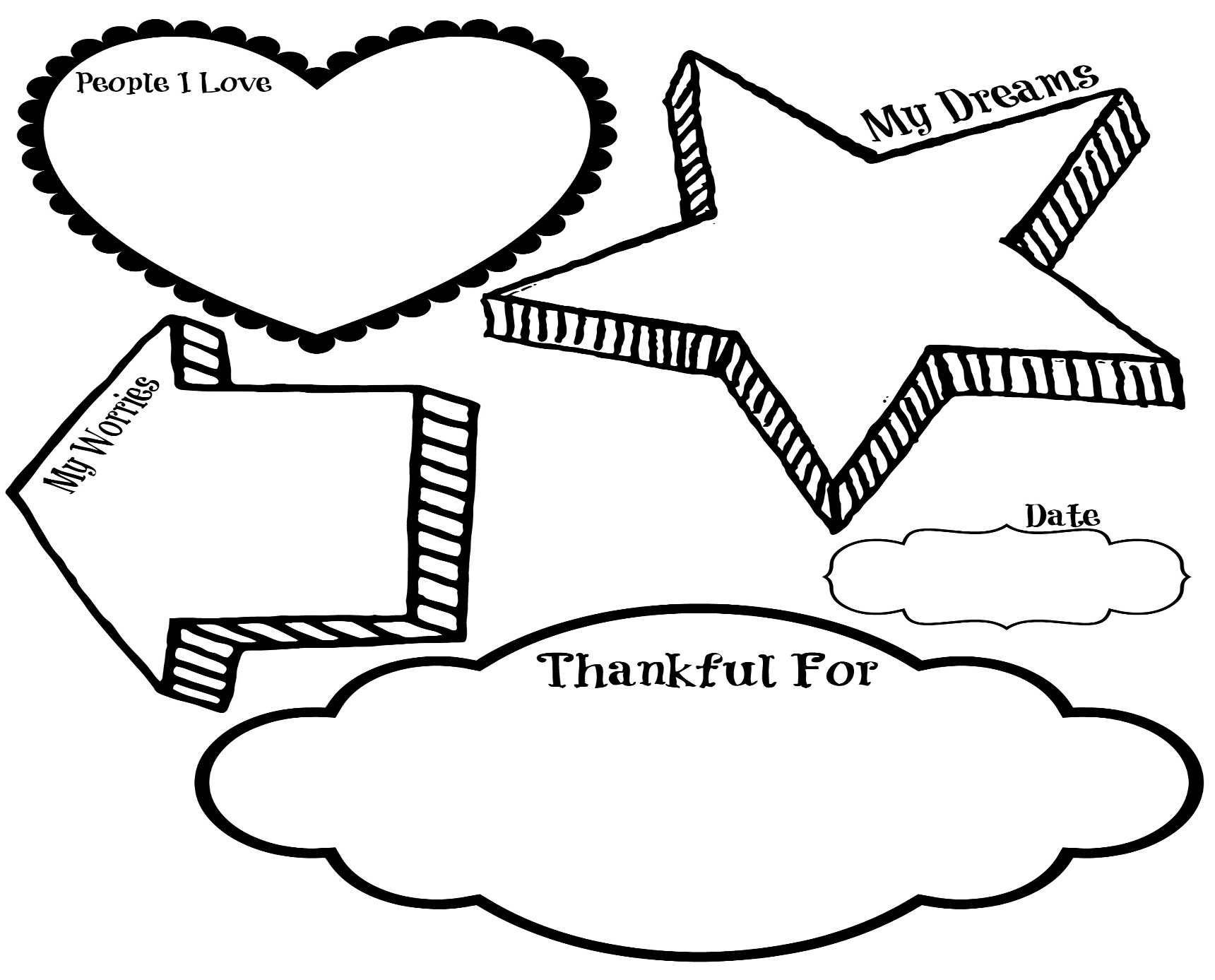
For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of

this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor,

oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out

of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness

among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be

faithful stewards. Amen.**WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns: Do you have a Joy or Concern you’d like to share with the congregation? Fill out the box above and let us know….**

**HYMN # 154 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**



**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. R**efrain**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

**BENEDICTION:** The Pastor often will give a benediction at the end of service. This is like a special prayer asking for God’s help, guidance and blessing over everyone before the end of service.

**POSTLUDE** : “**Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”** *Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716*

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