Scripture Lesson Psalm 147:1-6 Ann Robbins

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Singing Our Faith **# 140** *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

The Good News ***“God Determines the Number of Stars”***

Bringing Forward God’s Tithes and Our Gifts

\*Doxology **# 95 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.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Singing Our Faith **# 569** *“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”*

\*Blessing and Dismissal

\*Postlude

**Scatter to Serve God & Neighbor**

***Welcome to all!*** *We gather to praise God for the innumerable blessings given to us and to grow deeper in the Spirit. Joyfully, let us lift our hearts to God.*



*C* *hestnut Hill*

***United Methodist Church***



*Making disciples of Jesus Christ   
for the transformation of the world.*

*You are welcome at Chestnut Hill UMC.*

4660 Fort Avenue ~ Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Church: 434-239-8423

Minister’s Cell: 434-944-7723, Minister’s Email: awhite@ves.org

Associate Minister’s Cell: 1-502-489-0200

Associate Minister’s Email: healingsolutions12@gmail.com

Email: [chestnuthillumc@comcast.net](mailto:chestnuthillumc@comcast.net)

On the Web at chestnuthillumc.net

Find us on Facebook: Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church

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*Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church*

10:30 a.m. ~January 19, 2025 ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

Our ministry vision for the Virginia Annual Conference is ***“to be***

***disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners, who influence others to serve.”***

***Welcome! Join us in worshiping God!***

Prelude

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

*Welcome in the name of Christ our Lord. Please register your attendance, printing your name, address, phone, and email, on the attendance pad provided on your pew. Thank you for silencing cell phones as we gather to worship God.*

Invocation

\*Greeting

**God of today, tomorrow, and yesterday, as we begin this new year, we once again find ourselves looking for you.**

We long for the clarity of a star in the sky, or a voice in the clouds declaring your presence in our lives.

**So today we ask that you would make yourself known to us.**

Do what only you can do. Reach into our spirits to give us a boost of confidence that love is real and we are not alone.

**Remind us that we are beloved in your eyes.**

We know we’re asking a lot for a group that brings very little. We don’t have gold or Frankincense or Myrrh.

**We haven’t thrown off our shoes to honor your holy ground. We haven’t been baptized in the Jordan river.**

We haven’t spent the last several days traveling here by camel. We’re no Magi, Moses, or Messiah, but we’re yours.

**Instead, we bring ourselves to this service in hopes of catching a glimpse of you. Speak to us through these star words just as you spoke through the clouds at Jesus’ baptism.**

Let these words be an invitation and challenge for the year ahead. Let them be light in the sky that guides us home.

**Holy God, you call us beloved. You are with us in our joy. You are with us in our sorrow.**

Surely, even as we pray, you are with us here as well. So with grateful hearts, we unite our voices in prayer.

*(Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)*

\*Singing Our Faith **# 103** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Opening Prayer

**God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us, and called us beloved. Today we will draw star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that  just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with joy in our hearts. Amen.**

*(Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A.  Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)*

Special Music

Greeting Friends and Neighbors

Prayer for Illumination Ann Robbins

**Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and believing, we may follow faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

***\*\*Calendar \*\****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday, 1/20 |  | *Martin Luther King Day*  *Church Office Closed* |
|  |  |  |
| Thursday, 1/23 | 10:30 a.m. | *Merry Marthas Circle*  We will have the Prayer and Self-Denial program and offering, followed by lunch at Charley's. |
|  |  |  |
| Friday, 1/24 | 10:00 a.m. | *Homeschool* |
|  | 4:00 p.m. | *Homeschool Preteen Game Night* |

***\*\*Looking Ahead on the Calendar \*\****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday, 1/26 | 10:00 a.m. | *Choir* |

**For the Grocery Cart:**

**January ~** *“Pop-top cans of food and fruit”* to be used in emergency bags for the homeless. Place donations in cart in the Commons.

**2025 Newsletter**

The first quarter newsletter is ready for pickup. They have been placed in the Commons and available on our website: chestnuthillumc.net.

**Mitten Tree Trunk**

We are collecting mittens, gloves, caps, scarves, and socks again this year for the "*Mitten Tree Trunk*" that has been placed in the Commons. These will go to Humankind. They also are in need of warm jackets, all sizes. They can be new, gently used, and clean. They can even be adult sizes.

**Yearly Statement of Giving for 2024**

Your financial statements are ready to be picked up. They have been placed in the Commons.

**Cards for Homebound Members**

Please take a moment to sign the cards for our homebound members/friends that Erin has placed in the Commons.

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