

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**

\*Please stand if you are able

Today our service is shaped around the twelve days of Christmas, which begins on Christmas Day and ends the day before the celebration of Epiphany. The service is organized around the poem, *A New Dial*, offering interpretations for each of the different gifts provided by God and tied to our walk of faith.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Holy God, light of life, it can be difficult to find our way in the murkiness of this world. Shine your light in our hearts and upon your word, which today comes to us in scripture and is interpreted through song, poetry, and creed. May these words settle into our hearts that we might see ourselves and you more clearly. And may you be glorified in our words and our reflection. Amen.



### A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE JESUS CHRIST

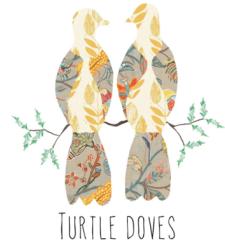
L: What are they that are but one?

P: We have one God alone, in heaven above sits on His throne.

SCRIPTURE: [Hebrews 1:1-4 CEB](#)

Hymn: Joy to the World #246, verses 1 and 4

### TWO TURTLE DOVES THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS



L: What are they which are by two?

P: Two testaments, the old and new, we do acknowledge to be true.



### THREE FRENCH HENS THE TRINITY

L: What are they which are but three?

P: Three persons in the Trinity which make one God in unity.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as we come to you in the light of this Christmas week, we admit that there are times when our faith, hope, and charity are not so readily on display. It can be difficult to hold on to our belief and trust in you amidst the trials and busyness of our lives. Sometimes our faith wanes. Forgive us when our faith fails us. Sometimes the bad news of the world can be overwhelming and we lose

sight of your promises that light and love will always get the last word. Forgive us when our hope falters. Sometimes in our fear of not having enough, we hold on too tightly to the gifts you give us. Forgive us when we forget how to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bring us back to the tenderness of the manger to restore our faith in our God who risks to be among us, our hope in the one who set the angels to singing, and our generosity to share like the magi who came with gifts. Amen

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High #238, verses 1 and 3

### FOUR CALLING BIRDS FOUR GOSPEL WRITERS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN



**L:** What are they which are but four?

**P:** Four sweet Evangelists there are, Christ's birth, life, death which do declare.

**SCRIPTURE:** [John 1: 1-5, 14](#) CEB



### FIVE GOLDEN RINGS FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE HEBREW BIBLE: GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY (PENTATEUCH)

**L:** What are they which are but five?

**P:** Five senses, like five kings, maintain in every man a several reign.

**Hymn:** We Three Kings of Orient Are #254, verses 1 and 5

### SIX GEESE A LAYING SIX DAYS OF CREATION



**L:** What are they which are but six?

**P:** Six days to labor is not wrong, For God himself did work so long.

**Reading** - *The Days of Creation*



### SEVEN SWANS A SWIMMING GOD'S GIFTS OF THE LIBERAL ARTS: GRAMMAR, LOGIC, RHETORIC, ARITHMETIC, GEOMETRY, ASTRONOMY, MUSIC

**L:** What are they which are but seven?

**P:** Seven liberal arts hath God sent down with divine skill man's soul to crown.

## YOUTH MESSAGE

## EIGHT MAIDS A MILKING THE BEATITUDES

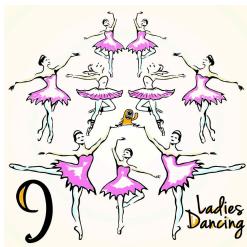
L: What are they which are but eight?

P: Eight Beatitudes are there given, use them right and go to heaven.



SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 5:3-10](#) NIRV

**Hymn:** The First Noel #245, verses 1 and 4



## NINE LADIES DANCING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL

L: What are they which are but nine?

P: Nine Muses, like the heaven's nine spheres, with sacred tunes entice our ears.

INVITATION TO SHARE JOYS AND CONCERNS  
LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

\*UNISON PRAYER: Gracious and Loving God, In this season of light and wonder, we bring our gifts to You with hearts full of gratitude. As the shepherds returned from the manger rejoicing, may our offerings carry Your joy into the world. Bless these gifts, that they may bring hope to the weary, comfort to the hurting, and peace to all who long for Your presence. Through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, we pray. Amen.

## TEN LORDS A LEAPING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

L: What are they which are but ten?

P: Ten statutes God to Moses gave which, kept or broke, do spill or save.

Poem



## ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING THE ELEVEN FAITHFUL APOSTLES: SIMON PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN, PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW, THOMAS, JAMES (SON OF ALPHAEUS), SIMON, JUDAS (SON OF JAMES)

L: What are they which are but eleven?

P: Eleven thousand maidens did partake and suffered death for Jesus' sake.

**TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING  
TWELVE POINTS OF THE APOSTLES' CREED**

L: What are they which are but twelve?

P: **Twelve are attending on God's son. Twelve make our creed.**



TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (To be read in Unison)

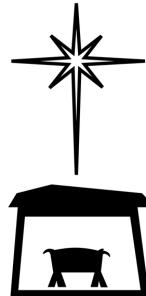
1 I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
2 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
3 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
4 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
5 the third day he rose from the dead;  
6 he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
7 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
8 I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
9 the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints;  
10 the forgiveness of sins;  
11 the resurrection of the body;  
12 and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Hymn:** Go Tell It On the Mountain #251, verses 1 and 3

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response:** Star Child TFWS #2095 Refrain Only

Postlude



Note: *This service is inspired by an Order of Worship provided by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. The mission of OPSF is to seek, develop and support excellence in Christian leadership through the Presbyterian Church (USA). They do this through a variety of scholarships, grants and programs which support pastors and congregational leaders.*