



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

11:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

ARR. JOEL RANEY

BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE AND BRYAN LOHR, PIANO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

INTROIT

MARY, *DID YOU KNOW? (BREATH OF HEAVEN)*

ARR. HARTMAN AND DODGE

BEAU HARTMAN, MIKAYLA DODGE, AND ERIC RINGLER

* CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Voice 1: We gather in the love of Christ: a love that is patient and kind; a love that is not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude.

All: In love, we rejoice in the truth.

Voice 2: Through the love of Christ, we find we can bear all things, believe all things, endure all things.

All: In love, we hope in all things.

The tradition of lighting candles during Advent symbolizes the anticipation that characterizes the season. **This morning Anne, Leon, Benji and Grace Bryan light the love candle.**

Voice 2: We light this candle to declare a love that never ends and for the day when it is fully known in the world.

(The first, second, third and fourth candles are lit.)

* HYMN #110

LOVE HAS COME

“BRING A TORCH”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we often live as if you are not with us,
not even near us, but distant and far away.
We forget that you dwell in each of us, among us, and around us.
We forget that you came into our world and our lives as one of us,
and you know the great joys and the struggles we face,
the challenges and the desires, the fears and the hopes.
May we remember anew that you have come to us and to the world,
vulnerable as any of us, to set us free from sin and death,
and to lead us into new life, eternal life.
In the name of Christ, who has come, who is among us,
and who will come again, we pray all these things...

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

KYRIE 103

COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE (verse 2)

“O-SO-SO”

Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE *(Seated)*

NOËL NOUVELET

ARR. LARRY SUE

NANCY HODGES, BRENDA LUGER, TAMELA RANKIN, AND BETTY RICHTMEYER, BELLS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with signs of peace.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD THROUGH DRAMA AND SONG

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BASED ON LUKE 2 AND MATTHEW 2

DIRECTOR: MIKAYLA DODGE, NARRATORS: LAURA AND MIKE FISCUS, MARY: CHELSEA BOOR, JOSEPH: BENJI BRYAN,
JESUS: JAX BOOR, CAMEL: MERCY, CAMEL HERDER: JANET HENDERSHOT, HEROD: ROLFE SINGERMAN,
SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS: CONGREGATION, WISE ONES: AARON HENDRICKSON, ERIC RINGLER, JOSH GILHART,
THE STAR: ELENA CORLEY AND SAMUEL KELLERMAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

LUKE 1:29-38: GABRIEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The glass containers on the communion table are filled with stones containing words of grief which were collected during our Longest Night Service on December 20. We will keep these containers visible throughout the Christmas Season as visual reminder that we bring all of who we are—grief included—into worship this season.

The response is a 15th century French Carol, the refrain of which may be translated: “New Christmas, Christmas we sing here, Devout people, let us shout our thanks to God!”

ANTHEM

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

TRADITIONAL BASQUE CAROL

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes aflame
'All hail,' said he, the lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be 'Emmanuel', of seers foretold;
Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth, God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify thy holy name.'
Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favored lady.' Gloria.

SECOND READING

LUKE 2:1-7: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CAROL #115

AWAY IN A MANGER

"MUELLER"

THIRD READING

LUKE 2: 8-18: THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

CAROL

THE FIRST NOWELL

BEAU HARTMAN, MIKAYLA DODGE, AND ERIC RINGLER

(See hymn 147 for text.)

FOURTH READING

MATTHEW 2:1-11: THE GIFTS OF THE WISE

CAROL #151

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

"KINGS OF ORIENT"

(Verses 2, 3, and 4 will be sung as a solo.

The congregation is invited to sing verses 1 and 5, and the refrain following each verse.)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

* **CAROL #121**

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

"ST. LOUIS"

(You are invited to bring your offering forward during the carol.)

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*(Since our service is broadcast on the radio, please make sure
you have permission to request prayer on behalf of another person.)*

Luke and Matthew are the only two gospels that include the story of Jesus' birth. Luke's version includes shepherds and angels and Matthew's version includes the wise men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* CAROL #134	JOY TO THE WORLD	"ANTIOCH"
* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
* SUNG BENEDICTION #113	ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (Refrain) (Please join hands as we sing together.)	"GLORIA"
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!		
CLOSING VOLUNTARY	IN DULCI JUBILO, BWV 729 BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN	J. S. BACH

The closing voluntary is Bach's setting of a popular medieval carol. The original text was macaronic, mixing German and Latin.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
Liturgist.....Janet Hendershot
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, Flute; Nancy Hodges, Piano
.....Members of the JoyBells Choir, Beau Hartman, Mikayla Dodge, and Eric Ringler
Sound Technician.....Joe Aurigemma
Ushers..... David Stickler and Joe Weaver

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

To view worship services live or to view taped worship services, go to www.youtube.com (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland Live Stream) or go to our website <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/> and click on "click here to view our worship service" located at the bottom of the home page.

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature a come-one, come-all, "no practice" Christmas pageant directed by Mikayla Dodge. The participants move and respond to lines prompted by the narrator, using a script adapted from Eugene Peterson's interpretations of the gospel narrative in his book *The Message*. This service will also include music from the Sanctuary Choir; soloist Beau Hartman and flutist Brenda Luger.

7:45PM - SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017, 11:00AM: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature Christmas Lessons and Carols.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland. Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. After the Time for Young Disciples, children may go to the nursery for a Bible lesson or remain in the sanctuary. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

WORSHIP BROADCASTS: This morning's broadcast was made possible by the generous donation of Mike and Cathy Levitas!

WORSHIP BROADCASTS TO END. After December 31, 2017, we will no longer be broadcasting our Sunday services on WCBC Radio. For several years the Worship and Music Committee has been aware of declining donations of the significant \$75 fee for weekly radio broadcasts. We have been unable to negotiate a lower figure. After long and careful consideration, the Committee decided that our church's mission is better served by using congregational donations for other ministries. We will continue to broadcast our Sunday services live on YouTube.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

ELDERS: AGNES YOUNT & PAM JAN

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 17, 2017
Total 2017 Pledges Promised	\$241,753.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,339.00
<u>2017 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$228,414.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$215,620.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$211,494.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,125.00

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 18, 2016
94

December 17, 2017
79

2017 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2017. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than next Sunday, December 31st** in order to qualify as 2017 contributions for tax purposes.

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2018 are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. While pledges are welcome at any time, we encourage you to provide your 2018 pledge by **next Sunday, December 31st**, in order to help us in planning for the new year. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2018 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

FAITH FORMATION

ELDERS: CHELSEA BOOR & JOE WEAVER

WAKING UP WHITE AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE: Ann Kellermeyer and others will be leading a nine-week book study starting in January based on Debbie Irving's 2014 book, *Waking Up White*, using a study guide written for the church by PC(U.S.A.) Co-Moderators The Rev'ds Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston. Referred to as "A jolting and continuing journey from white oblivion to white awareness described in an honest way....," the book has been studied by many churches across the country (and referred to in a recent sermon by Rev. Kelly). We will meet in the Heritage Room after worship on Sundays from 12:15 to 2:15. If you are interested, please contact Ann Kellermeyer, akellermeyer@me.com, Pam Jan, pamannjan@yahoo.com, or Brittany in the church office.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

ELDERS: SHIRLEY GIARRITTA & GARY HENDRICKSON

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT SNOWS ON SUNDAY?

Sunday School – The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 a.m. If Sunday School is canceled, an announcement will be made on WCBC 1270 AM radio station (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and the church website.

Worship – Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, an announcement will be made on WCBC 1270 AM radio station (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and the church website.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (25)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (26)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (27)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (28)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (29)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (30)
6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE LIBRARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (31)
9:45 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY & 2-5 YEAR OLD CLASS: AN ILLUSTRATED COMPASSION
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY- LESSONS AND CAROLS

* Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and January 1 and will be closing at noon on Friday, December 29th.

OUR STAFF

Minister of Word and Sacrament/Pastor.....Rev. Caroline M. Kelly
Director of Music MinistriesBryan Lohr
Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson
Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma
Sexton.....John Brown
Sunday Worship Child Care Providers.....Ginny Reid and Jessie Gates

THE SESSION

Class of 2018: Carl Belt, Carolyn Mathews, Judy Stern, and Agnes Yount

Class of 2019: Shirley Giarritta, Gary Hendrickson, Phil Mills, and David Stickler

Class of 2020: Barbara Aber, Chelsea Boor, Jeff Getty, Pam Jan, and Joe Weaver

Clerk of Session.....Jeff Getty
Moderator.....Caroline Kelly

REASON FOR THE SEASON

As you plan your gift giving for this Christmas season, please consider giving to one or more of the global and local projects below. This year's Reason for the Season will help support those that suffered DISASTER this year, help combat ADDICTION, and help support EDUCATION! After reading the details about each of the projects, discern which ones that God is calling you to support.

DISASTER

- ❖ For the **MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA**, a severe **multiyear drought** is endangering their semi nomadic way of life. Cattle, their most prized possession and livelihood, are dying. Some families walk up to 25 miles to get water and carry it back. By the time they return the water is not pure, causing much illness especially in children. Being proactive, the Maasai started Pals Foundation, a nonprofit which works "to alleviate poverty by building equitable and sustainable practice in development in pastoralist communities in Kenya". Donations will go toward additional well boring equipment for the Maasai people through their Foundation.
- ❖ **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria** left damage that was catastrophic, with deaths and massive damage sustained in Texas, Puerto Rico, Cuba, US Virgin Islands, and more. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [PDA] has been in constant communication with affected communities, distributing emergency grants and deploying Response Team members. Our donations will enable PDA to give even more long term assistance.

ADDICTION

- ❖ **CityReach Church Hope Homes** provide a place of hope and freedom for people dealing with life-controlling issues or desperate situations. With concentrations on spiritual discipleship and life disciplines reinforced by prayer, bible study, volunteerism and work programs, men and women are held accountable and encouraged to reach their full potential in a faith-filled, family-style atmosphere. Our donations will help support the CityReach Hope Homes for men and women in Cumberland.
- ❖ **Hope Against Heroin** is a local faith-based organization whose ministry is based on the recognition that addiction is a chronic and progressive disease, which deeply impacts not only the addict but the entire family and community. They strive to guide each individual including their family in the recovery process, with the goal of living life to its full potential-free from addiction. In partnership with other organizations and churches in the community, they strive to give hope to the hopeless, educate the community about addiction, offer resources, and provide a safe, happy environment for children in the community. Our contributions will help support their efforts to accomplish these goals through events they have planned for the community's children, an annual march and vigil to raise awareness and efforts to support more locally-based treatment options.

EDUCATION

- ❖ **Ihanktonwan Learning Camp** in South Dakota is one of our partnerships. An ecumenical, multigenerational group, led by Robin Bissell, has shared the joy of learning with Dakota children to encourage them to keep learning. It costs volunteers approximately \$825.00 to spend this worthwhile week with the children. The experience for the volunteers, and the children, is priceless.
- ❖ **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's** mission is to improve Pakistan through quality education. We are currently supporting seven students. Their ambitions range from becoming a lawyer, doctor, software engineer, banker, and teacher. Receiving a scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that students can continue their education, accomplish their goals, and become productive citizens.

What looks like extreme catastrophes and needs to us are manageable with God's help. We are God's hands and feet to bring that help to others. Thank you for your gifts through Reason for the Season.

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please make your total amount payable to "First Presbyterian Church", marked "Reason for the Season".

MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA	\$ _____
Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria Relief (PDA)	\$ _____
CityReach Church Hope Homes	\$ _____
Hope Against Heroin	\$ _____
Presbyterian Ed. Bd. (Pakistan) scholarships	\$ _____
Ihanktonwan Learning Camp	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____