

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2018 – 7:45 PM



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARIES	SLEEPERS AWAKE, A VOICE IS CALLING FROM 'THE SCHÜBLER CHORALES'	J. S. BACH
	BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN	
	LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS	ARR. THYGERSON "GARTAN"
	NANCY HODGES, PIANO	
	LULLABY FOR THE CHRIST CHILD	JAMES PETHEL
	NANCY HODGES, PIANO	
	PASTORAL SYMPHONY FROM 'MESSIAH'	G. F. HANDEL
	BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE	
	ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH	TEDD SMITH & DON HUSTAD
	NANCY HODGES, PIANO AND BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN	

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

I greet you in the name of the One born this night: Jesus, our Emmanuel.
May the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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 19. We will keep these containers visible throughout the Christmas Season as a visual reminder that we bring all of who we are—grief included—into worship this season.

CHORAL INTROIT

WHAT CHILD IS THIS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

THOMAS HEWITT JONES

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds worship and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear, for sinners here the silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come, peasant, king, to own him!
The king of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him!
Raise, raise the song on high! The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy! Joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Voice 1: On this night of the Christ child's birth,
we seek faith to believe the good news proclaimed by the angels:

Voice 2: For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah.

Voice 1: His birth gives us strength to claim hope,
courage to make peace,
wisdom to experience joy
and serenity to embrace love.

**All: On this Christmas Eve, we give thanks for the light of Christ
that shines in the darkness and never goes out!**

(The Christ candle is lit).

* CAROL #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

"ADESTE FIDELES"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, as we remember the story of the holiest night,
lead us to know the good news of Christ's birth for all people, even us.
We want to imagine ourselves on the first Christmas day:
worshiping with the shepherds, bowing with the animals,
or praying with Mary for peace on earth.
Still we worry that we would have ignored your signs, surrendered to fear,
and hidden our face from the majesty of your child.
We want to imagine ourselves on this Christmas day:
faithful servants worshiping Christ without hesitation or failure.
Still we know that we are quick to turn away from your good news,
ignore the power of your story,
and surrender to the commercial Christmas of our world.
Forgive us, Lord, and wrap us in your peace.
Pull us into the life of your story,
and empower us to find Christ anew in this world...

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

Each week during Advent we lit a candle to signify the important themes of the season—hope, peace, joy, and love. Tonight **Sharon Squires and her mother, Elva; her daughter, Heather; and her granddaughter, Heidi** light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

KYRIE ELEISON #123 (verse 3) IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

“CAROL”

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

* RESPONSE #113 (Refrain) ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

“GLORIA”

We respond to the good news of God’s gift of grace with words of joy!

* 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 600

ANTHEM

O LITTLE TOWN

BOB CHILCOTT

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet, in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth:
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:1-20

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 54

SERMON

REV. CAROLINE M. KELLY

Christmas is a 12-day season, beginning with the celebration of Christ’s birth on Christmas Day and concluding with the arrival of the wise men on January 6 (Epiphany). Luke and Matthew are the only gospels that tell the story: Luke’s version, which includes shepherds and angels, and Matthew’s version, which includes the wise men.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* CAROL #136

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

“GO TELL IT”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

AS LATELY WE WATCHED
BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

ARR. LANI SMITH

* AT THE PRESENTATION #144 (*verse 4*) IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

“CRANHAM”

What can I give him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SEALING THE WORD: HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
When we were living in deep darkness, you sent us your light—
a child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
All authority in heaven and on earth rests upon his shoulders.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
Born in a stable, he is our Good Shepherd, and your holy Lamb.
Lying in a manger, he is the bread of life, food for our souls.
Praised by the heavenly host, he is the hope and joy of all the earth.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Many of us give our monetary **offering** weekly. Many of us give our offering monthly or even yearly. This morning, even if you are not putting your monetary offering in the plate today, please touch the inside of the plate when it goes by. This will help us remember that the gift we are offering is actually ourselves.

The table belongs to the Lord, not First Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to receive communion.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Teach us to renounce worldly passions and frivolous pursuits.
In this present age, let our lives be godly, upright, and self-controlled,
while we await the coming in glory of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMAN*
BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE AND BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

ARR. LANI SMITH

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of shepherds and sheep,
we give you thanks
that you have gathered us here,
revealed to us your glory,
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us out
with good news for all—
for us a child is born:
Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

CANDLE LIGHTING

*(As the light is passed, please tip your candle toward the flame to light it.
After your candle is lit, please hold it upright.)*

We will receive communion by intinction; as directed by the ushers, please come forward to one of two stations, take a piece of bread from the basket, dip it into the cup, eat it and then return to your seat. Gluten-free bread is available.

* HYMN #122

SILENT NIGHT

“STILLE NACHT”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.

* CHRISTMAS BLESSING

* CAROL #134

JOY TO THE WORLD

“ANTIOCH”

(Please blow out your candle and put it in the box as you leave the sanctuary.)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

CHORALE PRELUDE ON ‘IN DULCI JUBILO’

J. S. BACH

BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

BWV 729

* 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**.

This Evening’s Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
Liturgist.....Rolfe Singerman
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Nancy Hodges, Piano; Brenda Luger, Flute
Ushers..... Cindy and Dave Corley
Communion Servers..... Carl Belt, Josh Gilhart, David Stickler and Judy Stern

POINSETTIAS FOR AT-HOME MEMBERS: If you are able to deliver a poinsettia to someone on our homebound or nursing home list, please take one from the sanctuary windows and a bulletin from the table in the hallway after this service. Bulletins with recipient names & addresses are on the table by the library. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy with our members and friends who cannot be with us this evening.

* Please note that Brittany will be on vacation from Thursday, December 27th- Wednesday, January 2nd. The church office will be opened by an office volunteer until noon on Thursday and Friday, December 27th and 28th and will be closed on Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st.

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2019 are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were consecrated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

2018 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2018. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than next Sunday, December 30th or post marked by December 31st** in order to qualify as 2018 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 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.

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY, December 30th, at 11:00AM for a Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, including the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Sunday School will break for the holidays for the next few Sundays and will resume on Sunday, January 13th. Children's Sunday School will continue to meet on Sunday mornings with the exception on Sunday, December 30th

OUR STAFF

Minister of Word & Sacrament/Pastor.....Rev. Caroline M. Kelly
Director of Music MinistriesBryan Lohr
Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma
Sunday Worship Child Care Providers..... Addy and Jonathan Dayton

THE SESSION

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

Class of 2020: Jeff Getty, Pam Jan, Cathy Levitas, and Joe Weaver

Class of 2021: Laura Fiscus, Josh Gilhart, Aaron Hendrickson, and Agnes Yount

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

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