**First Presbyterian Church**

**11 Washington Street Cumberland, MD 21502**



**Service for the Lord’s Day**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**December 29, 2019**

**11:00 AM**

**Prelude** *In The Bleak Midwinter* arr. Roberta Roland-Raybold

Bryan Lohr, Organ

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome , Announcements, Joys**

**Choral Introit** *The Birthday Of A King* William H. Neidlinger

The Sanctuary Choir

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day;

And the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

*Alleluia, O how the angels sang.  Alleluia, how it rang;*

*And the sky was bright with a holy light;*

*'Twas the birthday of a king.*

’Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much God gave to us that day.

From the manger bed, what a path has led; what a perfect holy way.

**\* Call to Worship**

Sing for joy**,** children of God! Shout aloud, for God is our salvation!

**We will proclaim the good news that God is in our midst.**

Sing for joy, children of God! Shout aloud, for God is our salvation!

**We will tell the good news that God removes all our fears.**

Sing for joy, children of God! Shout aloud, for God is our salvation!

**We will make known the good news that in God we rejoice.**

**\* Carols of Praise** *(Sing the first and last verse of each carol.)*

**# 119** *Hark! The Herald Angles Sing* “Mendelssohn”

**# 132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* “In Dulci Jubilo”

**# 143** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* “Regent Square”

**\* Call to Confession**

**\* Prayer of Confession**

We must confess, **we suspect angels and disbelieve Good News.**

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

**Kyrie Eleison** *Kyrie “*New World”

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

**Words of Assurance**

**\* Passing of the Peace**  *(Please greet one another with signs of peace.)*

**\* Response #582**  *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*“Glory to God”

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**and to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**and to the spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**A Moment with Beauregard**

**Old Testament Readings**  Psalm 148 Pew Bible, OT, p. 550

**Anthem** *Jesu, Joy Of Man’s Desiring* J. S. Bach

The Sanctuary Choir

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,

Holy wisdom, love most bright;

Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring

Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,

With the fire of life impassioned,

Striving still to truth unknown,

Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,

Hark, what peaceful music rings;

Where the flock, in Thee confiding,

Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;

Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.

Thou dost ever lead Thine own

In the love of joys unknown.

**New Testament Reading** Luke 2:22-38Pew Bible, NT, p. 55

**Sermon**  Rev. Rebecca Vardiman

**\* Carols of Prayer** *(Sing the first and last verse of each carol.)*

**# 123** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* “Carol”

**# 128** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* “W Zlobie Lezy”

**# 145** *What Child Is This* “Greensleeves”

**Receiving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** Chorale Prelude on *‘Quem Pastores’* Helmut Walcha

**\* Song of Praise & Presentation # 609** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* “Lasst Uns Erfreuen”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known:**

**Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Pastoral Prayer concluding with**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\* Carols of Challenge** *(Sing the first and last verse of each carol.)*

**# 136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* “Go Tell It”

**# 139** *That Boy-Child of Mary* “Blantyre”

**\* Benediction**

**\* Sung Response #306** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* “Dennis”

*(Please join hands as we sing together.)*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**

**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**Closing Voluntary** *Prelude In C* J. S. Bach

Bryan Lohr, Organ *BWV547*

 \* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold.**

**This Morning’s Worship Leaders**

Guest Preacher…………..................................………………………………………………..................................... Rev. Rebecca Vardiman

Liturgist………………………………..………………………………………….......................................................................................Carl Belt

Director of Music Ministries.........................................................................................................................................Bryan Lohr

Musicians.......................................................................................................................................................The Sanctuary Choir

Sound Technician ……………....……………………………………...………………….............................................................Joe Aurigemma

Ushers...................................................................................................................................Carolyn Mathews and Linda Mellon

**Church Office Holiday Hours**

**Monday, December 30, 2018 Office- Open until Noon by Volunteer**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019- CLOSED**

**Wednesday January 1, 2019- CLOSED**

**What’s Happening This Week:**

**Monday, December (30)**

**9:00 AM Church Office Open Until Noon by a Volunteer**

**Tuesday, December (31)**

**Church Office Closed**

**7:00 PM AA New Year’s Eve Gathering**

**Wednesday, January (1)**

**Church Office Closed**

7:00 PM N.A. Group Meeting in the Heritage Room

**Thursday, January (2)**

9:00 AMChurch Office Open

**Friday, January (3)**

9:00 AM Church Office Open

**Saturday, January (4)**

6:00 PM N.A. Group Meeting in the Heritage Room

**Sunday, January (5)**

**11:00AM Service of Word & Sacrament: Holy Communion**

**Worship & Music**

**Ruling Elders: David Stickler & Cathy Levitas**

**FPC SNOW POLICY:** 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, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, 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, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.

**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

**First Presbyterian Church 301-777-3700 www.firstpresbyteriansecretary.com**

**11 Washington St. Cumberland, Maryland 21502 www.fpc-cumberland.org**

**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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://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. 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 ON YOUTUBE**:  To view worship services live or to view taped worship services, go to [**www.youtube.com**](http://www.youtube.com) (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland Live Stream) or go to our website [**http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/**](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/) and click on “click here to view our worship service” located at the bottom of the home page.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** **Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.**

**Administration & Finance**

**Ruling Elders: Gary Hendrickson & Cindy Corley**

**ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:                as of December15 , 2019**

Total 2019 Pledges Promised                                      $217,442.00

Pre-paid pledges                                                          $  8,592.00

2019 Pledge Balance Promised                                    $205,850.00

Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date $ 200,659.00

Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date                 $ 200,817.00

Over/(Under)                                                       $ (157.00)

**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

**December 23, 2018 December 22, 2019**

90 92

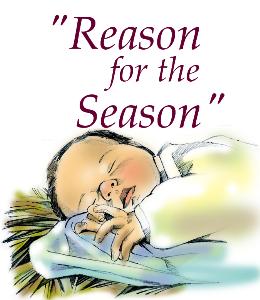
**PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2020** are available in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were consecrated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2020** 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.

**Mission**

**Ruling Elders: Pam Jan & Aaron Hendrickson**

**MISSION OUTREACH DINNER:** The monthly outreach dinner will be held **on Sunday, January 26, 2020** at **Christ United Methodist Church, 336 Race Street**. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner, help clean tables, and/or provide cupcakes; please let Judy Stern (814-977-8880), Phil Mills, or Linda Smith (301-395-8165) know.

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## An Advent custom in Eastern Europe is for people to take pieces of straw and place it in a feeding trough to prepare the bed for baby Jesus. Each piece of straw represents something good that they do for others, so that by Christmas Eve, Jesus’ bed might be filled with straw symbolizing acts of love and kindness. One act could be giving an “alternative” gift to others in need. Our Reason for the Season has several ministries that help neighbors in Cumberland and neighbors across the planet. Please consider prayerfully which one(s) God is nudging you toward, to help fill the manger.

**Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan’s** mission is to improve Pakistan through quality education of Christian and Muslim students. Veda Gill, Executive Director of PEB, visited us last Fall and updated us on PEB’s progress. We currently support seven students at Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. A scholarship of approximately $60/month means that “our” students can continue their education for a better future for themselves and their country. [www.friendsofpeb.org](http://www.friendsofpeb.org) .

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is helping those who were devastated by Hurricane Dorian when it made landfall in the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane on September 1 and stalled over the islands for 24 hours, causing massive damage. PDA is working with partners on the ground in the Bahamas to respond to immediate needs using a solidarity grant. Thus far, this grant has primarily helped evacuees in shelters with emergency needs. They are working with ACT Alliance to plan for long-term recovery support.

**The Fuller Center for Housing** is an ecumenical Christian, non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Americus, Georgia that builds and repairs homes for low-income families and individuals. It is active in 60 U.S. cities and 16 countries outside the U.S. Members of our church participated in a build in New Bern, NC this Fall and were very impressed with the organization’s efficiency, focus, and results. One fund-raiser of Fuller is a cross-country bike ride. Groups have stayed at First Presbyterian during their trek.

**Pressley Ridge’s** Homebuilder’s Program is a family preservation program focusing on babies born addicted to substances, keeping newborns with their families, and transitioning them home safely. The Homebuilder’s Program teaches parenting and coping skills as well as relapse prevention. It serves two families at a time, offering 40 hours of therapy in one month. It is evidence-based, with 96% of children remaining with their families after 6 months. Three additional programs help children also.

**The Interfaith Food Pantry** at 301 Cumberland St. was formed in 1975 by the 23 local churches of Interfaith Consortium. It is an all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland. The pantry provides non-perishable food, and vouchers that can be used in three local markets to purchase perishable foods. Distribution of food is governed by family circumstances, family number and number of times the pantry has been utilized during the current year. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates** believes every abused or neglected child deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interests in court, at school, and in our community. Non-profit CASA trains and supervises community volunteers who ensure each child’s needs remain a priority in an over-burdened child welfare system. For these children, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. This is another place to volunteer.

**Other** ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: This Child Here (Ukraine); WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Q Mt.(Lesotho); Mulanje Hospital (Malawi); Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crisis Resource Center; NAILS; Western Maryland Food Bank; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries; and the monthly Outreach Dinner

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2019

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB), scholarships, Pakistan $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief, PDA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Fuller Center for Housing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pressley Ridge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interfaith Pantry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Special Ministries, Nepal, “This Child Here”, SD Learning Camp, Food Pantry, etc, . . .)

**TOTAL: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

