

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2020



PRELUDES

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT
NANCY HODGES, PIANO

ARR. JANET VOGT

WALKING IN THE AIR FROM 'THE SNOWMAN'
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

HOWARD BLAKE

WHAT CHILD IS THIS
NANCY HODGES, PIANO AND KARL HODGES, UKULELE

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH

THE FIRST NOWELL
NANCY HODGES, PIANO AND KARL HODGES, UKULELE

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH

TRIO ON 'ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH'
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

J. S. BACH

WORDS OF WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

* CAROL #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

"ADESTE FIDELES"

SCRIPTURE READING PSALM 98--PRAISE FOR GOD'S VICTORY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. ²The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. ⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. ⁸Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy ⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

* CAROL #119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

"MENDELSSOHN"

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2--THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"^[c]

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Jesus Is Named

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;^[d] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.^[e] ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[f] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon^[g] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[h] in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon^[i] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna^[j] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[k] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents^[l] saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"^[ml] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,^[l] and in divine and human favor.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O HOLY NIGHT
ZACH & MIKAYLA DODGE

ADOLPHE ADAM

* CAROL #121

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

"ST. LOUIS"

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 1: 1-14--THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[l] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[l]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[l] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[l] full of grace and truth.

* CAROL #115

AWAY IN A MANGER

"MUELLER"

SPECIAL MUSIC

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT FROM 'NOCTURNES'
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR (STREAMED LIVE FROM A SERVICE FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT, 2018)

MORTEN LAURIDSEN

*Sure on this shining night
of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.*

*The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.*

*Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.*

(James Agee, from 'Permit Me Voyage,' 1934)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LIGHTING OUR CHRISTMAS CANDLES

* CAROL #122

SILENT NIGHT

"STILLE NACHT"

* 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. Dr. James R.M. Young
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells; Zach & Mikayla Dodge, Guitar and Vocalists;
.....Nancy Hodges, Piano; Karl Hodges, Ukulele
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 25, 2019- CLOSED

Thursday, December 31, 2020- CLOSED

Friday, January 1, 2020- CLOSED

2020 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2020. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Wednesday, December 30th** in order to qualify as 2020 contributions for tax purposes.

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG, MODERATOR OF THE SESSION

JEFF GETTY, CLERK

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Courtney: Building & Grounds

Laura Fiscus: Mission

Josh Gilhart: Faith Formation

Aaron Hendrickson: Mission

CLASS OF 2022

Cindy Corley: Administration & Finance

Gary Hendrickson: Administration & Finance

David Stickler: Worship & Music

Evan Swanger: Building & Grounds

CLASS OF 2023

Kristina Hall: Congregational Care & Outreach

Janet Hendershot: Faith Formation

Sharon Kazary: Worship & Music

Jan Layman: Congregational Care & Outreach

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.

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: LAURA FISCUS * & AARON HENDRICKSON

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This Sunday, December 27th, we have the opportunity to contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering. Fifty percent of what is collected will go to help support Presbyterian related schools. There our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges.

The other 50% goes to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. By supporting this program, the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile offering, please send a check made out to the church writing on the memo line Christmas Joy Offering. During this pandemic the need is great for both the church workers and the college students.

REASON FOR THE SEASON 2020

As we've learned all too well this year, viruses can spread around the world bringing sickness, increased poverty and hunger, and death. In contrast, what would the opposite look like? A "virus" that spreads God's contagious love?

Mission is one way to do that. Through "Reason for the Season", our church has been spreading such a "virus" locally and around the globe for over 20 years. It's an alternative giving opportunity that can be a donation or a gift to another person. Please prayerfully consider how you can help spread *this* "virus".

Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan (PEB) provides quality education to "poorest of the poor" (aka Christian) children through scholarships if parents cannot afford the \$2/month tuition. A scholarship to one student spreads the benefits of an education to future generations. The cost per student is \$365/year, or \$31 per month, which covers tuition, books, supplies, and uniforms. Boarding student scholarships are twice that. We currently sponsor 7 students through this donation and the Mission budget.

"This Child Here" in Ukraine currently trains all foster families and social workers in the Odessa region. There are 751 orphanages in Ukraine and 106,000 youth and children in them. The hope is to get kids back into healthy families: families of origin or foster families, to give them a strong foundation for their life. The cost for two staff people to lead a session is \$400. Training covers 3 days and includes classes on childhood development and skills in effective parenting. Up to 10 people are allowed in each session due to COVID, but previously it was 25.

Q Mountain Connection Emergency Food Fund, Lesotho is a lifeline for the people of Qholaqhoe where there has been a drought and crop failures for more than four years. There are no unemployment funds, PPE, or healthcare benefits. No food pantries and very little food support of any kind. The World Food Program has warned that a hunger pandemic could eclipse the coronavirus. Our church supports 5 high school students with scholarships who, along with 57 other high school students, will benefit from the emergency food fund. \$75 provides supplementary food for a child for 10 months.

Western Maryland Food Bank supplies food to 80 local agencies, emergency needs, and the school backpack program. In the last six months it distributed 482,389 pounds of food. Of that, 220,820 pounds were fresh produce. The Food Bank now has an outlet of fresh food but needs a refrigerated truck in order to bring it to people of the Cumberland area, for a more healthy diet. Since the food bank relies entirely on donations, a truck is a major expense for them.

Interfaith Food Pantry is an all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland. Located at 301 Cumberland St., it formed in 1975 by the 23 local churches of the Interfaith Consortium. 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 used during the current year. Volunteers are also always needed and welcome.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) believes every abused or neglected child deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interest 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 overburdened child welfare system. For these children, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. Two church members have taken the training to become advocates.

Other ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Mulanje Hospital) Malawi; Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crises Resource Centre; NAILS; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2020

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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

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

This Child Here _____

Q Mountain Connection Emergency Food Fund _____

Western Maryland Food Bank _____

Interfaith Food Pantry _____

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) _____

OTHER: _____

(WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Mulanje Hospital) Malawi; Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crises Resource Centre; NAILS; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries.)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Christmas Fundraiser 2020