

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021 – 7:30 PM



7:30PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

CAROLS AND LULLABIES FOR CHRISTMAS

*HE SHALL FEED HIS FLOCK
COME UNTO HIM ("MESSIAH") (INSTRUMENTAL)*

G.F. HANDEL

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

GRUBER, ARR. JANET VOGT

IN A TINY MANGER

TRADITIONAL BRAZILIAN ARR. DAVID STOCKER

In a tiny manger the Baby is lying,
Softly in the darkness his mother is sighing,
Slumber, my Baby au-ru, au-ru.
Hush, my child, so wakeful,
may sweet rest God send you,
Angels in the heavens will guard and defend you.
Blessings on the children in God's gentle keeping,
Blessings on their mothers who watch while they're sleeping,

NOEL: CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913

LEE HOLDRIDGE

A frosty Christmas eve when the stars were shining,
I traveled forth alone where westward falls the hill
And from many, many a village in the darkness of the valley,
Distant music reached me, peals of bells a-ringing.
Then sped my thoughts to olden times to that first of Christmases
When the shepherds who were watching
Heard music in the fields,
And they sat there and they marveled
And they knew they could not tell
Whether it were angels or the bright stars a-singing.
But to me heard afar it was starry music,
The singing of the angels, the comfort of our Lord.
Words of old that come a-trav'ling by the riches of the times,
And I softly listened as I stood upon the hill.

DING, DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH (INSTRUMENTAL)

THOINOT ARBEAU, ARR. KRISTIN CAMPBELL

ROCKING

CZECH CAROL, ARR. JUDITH BROWN

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling, little man.

EL NACIMIENTO

ARIEL RAMIREZ

Night long awaited, Night of love's pow'r,
Jesus is born of petals and flow'rs.
All is in silence, calm is His birth,
Christmas is with us, peace upon earth.
Love in the manger, Lord from above,
Brings us the news of peace and of love,
When He is smiling, Radiance glows,
And is His arms a tiny cross grows.
Angels are singing over the door,
Christmas is with us, Jesus is born.
This is the night God promised of old,
His gift of all people, see it unfold.
This is the night when sleep is foregone,
God is among us, Jesus is born.

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY (INSTRUMENTAL)

POLISH CAROL, ARR. BRIAN HENKELMANN

LULLABY (INSTRUMENTAL)

JOHANNES BRAHMS, ARR. JUDITH BROWN

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE MUSICIANS:

NICOLE HALMOS, SOPRANO; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR
RACHEL WHITE, VIOLIN; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; NANCY HODGES, PIANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

WORDS OF WELCOME

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.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

BUCK & JANE BELT

CHORAL INTROIT

THE INFANT KING
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

OLD BASQUE NOEL, ARR. D. RATCLIFFE

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby, baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant King
Angels are watching,
stars are shining over the place where He is lying.
Sing lullaby!

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.
Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice!

Prayer

Tonight, O God, we remember with excitement the birth of your Son. Help us to hear the story anew - teach us your lessons. May we stare with wonder at the face of our Savior like Mary. May we sing with unending joy like the angels. May we drop our worries and work to journey with the shepherds to be by his side. And may this night urge us forward to be your people in the world. Amen.

* CAROL #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

"ADESTE FIDELES"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, Mighty God, that we have walked in the shadows and dwelt in deep darkness. In questioning all authority, we have undermined your own. In refusing to cast off the burden of sin, we have languished under its oppressive yoke. Forgive us, O Lord, for our rebellion and disobedience. Have mercy upon us, and lead us anew by the light of your countenance in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE #123

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

"CAROL"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 96:1-13

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 520

SECOND READING

JOHN 1:1-14

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 86

ANTHEM

AWAY IN A MANGER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

RACHEL WHITE, VIOLIN; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The star in the bright sky look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

ARR. PAUL SJOLUND

THIRD READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 600

FOURTH READING

LUKE 2:1-20

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 54

SERMON

"A LONG TRIP"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* CAROL #119

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

"MENDELSSOHN"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

O HOLY NIGHT

ADOLPHE ADAM, ARR. DUDLEY BUCK

NICOLE HALMOS, SOPRANO; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR; RACHEL WHITE, VIOLIN; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

* DOXOLOGY #609

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"LASST UNE ERFREUEN"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
In a stable, born of Mary!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Hear the angels, see the shepherds!
Alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Savior!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Loving and gracious God, like those who traveled to meet the tiny child in Bethlehem, we joined with him again at this table. May the moments together equip us to share the light of Christ we find this night. May our hearts reflect the glory of the Lord and may we be ever thankful. Amen.

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.)*

* CAROL #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

IN DULCI JUBILO

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

JUDITH BROWN, 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. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Melissa Courtney
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Nancy Hodges, Piano; Brenda Luger, Flute; Rachel White, Violin
Vocalists.....Nicole Halmos, Sopranos; Josh Ruppencamp, Tenor
Ushers.....Cindy and Dave Corley

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 in the Gathering Place.. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy with our members and friends who cannot be with us this evening.

2021 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2021. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Wednesday, December 29th or post marked by December 31st** in order to qualify as 2021 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 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 ON SUNDAY, December 26th, at 11:00AM for a Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 27, 2021- CLOSED
Thursday, December 30, 2021- Open until Noon
Friday, December 31, 2021- CLOSED
Monday, January 3, 2021- CLOSED

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music MinistriesJudith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....Eric Ringler

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

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