

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2022 11:00 AM**



- Bulletin Artwork created by Amy Folkedahl

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

FRENCH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ARR. LEON ROCQUE

THE BIRTH OF JESUS
THE CRIB
THE ANGELS
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

The story of God's redemption began long ago.

God created the world and it was good.

The story of God's redemption weaves through stories.

Stories of women and men who lived their lives in faithfulness.

The story of God's redemption is revealed in the coming of Christ.

We have seen his glory, full of grace and truth!

The story of God's redemption has a place for us -

We are God's chosen family, and we have a place in the story.

Let us pray -

God of all generations - we welcome you this day to be present among us like you were on that first Christmas morning. Open us up to your love. Help us to remember our place in your great family of faith. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

BRENDA & BETTY LUGER

*** HYMN #82**

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

"HYFRYDOL"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we enter your holy presence aware that we can only do so because of our relationship with you. We do not measure up to your standards, yet you welcome us. We do not listen to your commands, but you are patient with us. You chose us before the world was created to be your children. Thank you for welcoming us into your bigger family and help us to live as those who know your love and walk in your light. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (*Verse 2*)

“VENI EMMANUEL”

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 1:1-12

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

¹² like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 1:1-14

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, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake 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. 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, 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, full of grace and truth.

SERMON	GOD'S CHOSEN FAMILY: A BIGGER FAMILY "COMMUNITY"	REV. ALISON PETERS
* HYMN #110	LOVE HAS COME	"BRING A TORCH"
INVITATION TO OFFERING	<i>(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)</i>	
OFFERTORY	SILENT NIGHT JUDITH BROWN, PIANO	ARR. CAROL CLOSE
* DOXOLOGY #88	O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL <i>(Verse 7)</i>	"VENI EMMANUEL"
	O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	
* PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.	
* HYMN #119	HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING	"MENDELSSOHN"
* BENEDICTION		
* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION	FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION <i>(Verse 1)</i>	
	From generation to generation, we have shared the Christmas story of a baby in a manger, who was born in Bethlehem. Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, joy we're singing, Love he's bringing. There is room for eve'ry story. There is hope through God's great glory.	
POSTLUDE	O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL JUDITH BROWN, PIANO	ARR. CAROL CLOSE

* 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

Preacher.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....	David Stickler
Advent Wreath Lighters.....	The Luger Family
Director of Music Ministries.....	Judith Brown
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Brenda & Betty Luger

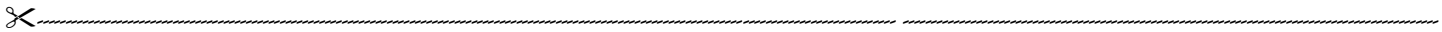
"Reason for the Season"



What would the wish list be for some of the people in the countries where we support a mission? What might their wish lists look like...?

- ❖ For “our” 7 students (and maybe more?) in **PAKISTAN**, the opportunity to continue their schooling another year through **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB)**. Veda Gill believes that education is the key to reform in Pakistan. www.friendsopfeb.org
- ❖ Many more students in Punjab Province are wishing for the excellent education they could receive at **KINNARD ACADEMY**, one of PEB’s 25 schools, if only there were classrooms for them. An extension to Kinnard is Veda’s dream also.
- ❖ In **UKRAINE**, something as simple as money for groceries or rent, a chance to do normal things while being a refugee in another country. Your gifts support Dr. Robert Gamble’s “**This Child Here**” ministry. www.thischildhere.org
- ❖ At **QHOLAQHOE** in **LESOTHO**, Thabang Coza is a very humble boy and a double orphan, taken care of by his uncle and aunt. Lynn Minderman says he has a good chance to attend college next year, if he has a scholarship through **Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections**. <https://qmconnect.org>
- ❖ In **CUMBERLAND**, it’s a wish for help in escaping an abusive relationship, or to be safe in a loving family. **Family Crisis Resource Center** offers emergency shelter, food, clothing, and counseling.
- ❖ Also in **CUMBERLAND**, unfortunately, families with empty cupboards wish for a basic necessity, food. The **Western MD Food Bank** can be a resource, but only if they have enough food on the shelves.
- ❖ A committee in **CUMBERLAND** is working to start a **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** where everyone can eat with dignity in a restaurant environment, paying what they can afford. Top on their list is start-up funds.
- ❖ **Other:** You may also donate to **Mulanji Hospital, Malawi; Dakota Learning Camp, SD; Nepali orphanage; Interfaith Food Pantry;** etc. Please indicate your preference below.

Contact Linda Smith or view the bulletin boards in the hall for additional information on the organizations listed above that you have the opportunity to support this season.



REASON FOR THE SEASON 2022

Name : _____ Phone: _____

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

Presbyterian Ed. Bd. (Pakistan)-scholarships	\$ _____
Kinnard Academy (Pakistan)- classroom extension	\$ _____
“This Child Here” (Ukraine)- refugee supplies	\$ _____
Q Mountain (Lesotho) – college scholarship	\$ _____
Family Crisis Resource Center (Cumberland)	\$ _____
Western MD Food Bank (Cumberland)	\$ _____
Community Cafe –(Cumberland)	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____