

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2022 – 7:30 PM



-Bulletin Artwork created by our Sunday School Families

7:30PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

CAROLS AND LULLABIES FOR CHRISTMAS

CAROL OF THE BELLS (INSTRUMENTAL ONLY)

UKRAINIAN CAROL ARR. KRISTIN CAMPBELL

WAKE, O SHEPHERDS

J. PHILIPPE RAMEAU

Wake, O shepherds, hear the story of the Babe in Bethlehem.
 Angels fill the sky with glory like a heavenly diadem,
 And sing a song loud and clear of praise to the Lord of heaven,
 The Father, almighty King.
 The Lord above, the Lord of love has sent to the earth a Saviour!
 His glory forever sing!

HE SHALL FEED HIS FLOCK ("MESSIAH")

G. F. HANDEL

COME UNTO HIM ("MESSIAH")

Come unto Him all ye that labour,
 and He will give you rest.
 Take His yoke unto you, and learn of Him
 For He is meek and lowly of heart,
 And ye shall find rest unto your souls.

THREE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ADESTE FIDELES

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

AWAY IN A MANGER

(INSTRUMENTAL ONLY)

THE LAMB

RUTH WATSON HENDERSON

The shepherd, he gave me as a gift to his lad;
The little boy loved me, I was all that he had.
They came to the Stable, that first Christmas morn.
For angels had told them the Christ Child was born.
Kings from their treasure, brought incense, myrrh, and gold;
It cost them the choosing their gifts, they were cold.
The shepherd boy gave me 'twas so hard to part;
His gift had the warmth of a gift from the heart.

GESU BAMBINO

PIETRO A. YON

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a Christmas night
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang the grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced,
Refrain: O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the hold night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name the grateful chorus swell,
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. (*Refrain*)

CHRISTMAS SONG

JOHANNES BRAHMS

The woods and fields were sleeping on that most hold night.
The shepherds on the hillside beheld a glorious light.
From heaven an angel suddenly appeared to them and sang:
"Peace on earth goodwill to all mankind."
Immediately the shepherds set out for Bethlehem.
To guide their footsteps safely, a star shone forth to them.
It led them to a manger stall where Jesus lay asleep.
Slumber on, sleep, O child who brings peace to all mankind.
They knelt beside the manger to praise the hold boy;
With Mary and with Joseph their hearts were filled with joy.
Their ord had come to save the world as angels had foretold:
"Peace on earth goodwill to all mankind."

SILENT NIGHT (INSTRUMENTAL ONLY)

LULLABY

JOHANNES BRAHMS

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE MUSICIANS:

LAUREL PLITNIK, SOPRANO; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR
JOAN KNOBLACH, VIOLIN; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

ROBERT A. ANDERSON

When the angel of the Lord came down to shepherds on that night.
He told them of the glorious birth that would change the dark to light.
He told them of the joy and hope that Christ the Lord would bring
And then appeared a shining throng of angels praising God and singing
Gloria in excelsis.

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

The story of God's redemption began long ago.

In the beginning, 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 watch and wait for his appearance this very night.

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 trust in your surprising presence as we gather this Christmas Eve. Keep us alert from our slumber. Help us to pay attention to your coming. May our Dedication, Recognition, Friendship, and Love lead us into a deeper relationship with you. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

BOB, JULIE COURTNEY & FAMILY

*** CAROL #133**

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (*Verses 1-3*)

"ADESTE FIDELES"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your love and power transform death into life, despair into hope, lifeless stumps into tender shoots and a tiny baby into the Prince of Peace. In the hearing of your Word and the repenting of our sins, transform the hardness of our hearts into lives of receptivity, following the One who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit - Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG 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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 96:1-13

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 520

SECOND READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 200

ANTHEM

MARY'S LULLABY

JOHN RUTTER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; JOAN KNOBLACH, VIOLIN; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

See the child that Mary bore on her lap so softly sleeping
In a stable cold and poor, ox and ass their vigil keeping

Refrain: Sing Lullaby, my own dear son, my child.

Lullaby, sing lullaby;

Lullaby, my little baby

Flights of angels round his head sing him joyful hymns of greeting:
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' each to each the song repeating. (*Refrain*)

Shepherds kneeling by his bed offer homage without measure;
Wisemen by a bright star led, bring him gifts of richest treasure. (*Refrain*)

THIRD READING

TITUS 2:11-14

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 202

* CAROL #144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

"CRANHAM"

FOURTH READING

LUKE 2:1-20

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 54

SERMON

GOD'S CHOSEN FAMILY: SHEPHERDS
"JOY"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* CAROL #113

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

"GLORIA"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

DAN FORREST

LAUREL PLITNIK, ALISON PETERS, SOPRANOS; JOSH RUPPENKAMP, TENOR; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations;
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

* DOXOLOGY ##88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (Verse 7)

"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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

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.....Josh Gilhart
Advent Wreath Lighters.....The Courtney Family
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, Flute; Joan Knoblach, Violin
Vocalists..... Laurel Plitnik & Rev. Alison Peters, Sopranos; Josh Ruppencamp, Tenor
Ushers..... Bob & Sharon Kazary

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.

2022 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2022. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Thursday, December 29th or post marked by December 31st** in order to qualify as 2022 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 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 25th, at 11:00AM for our Christmas Day Service.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 26, 2022- CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27, 2022- Brittany Remote

Wednesday, December 28, 2022- Office open for the day

Thursday, December 29, 2022- Office open until Noon

Friday, December 30, 2022 & Monday, January 2, 2022- CLOSED

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries	Judith 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

Carolyn Mathews

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Gary Hendrickson

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Susan Mills

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

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