

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 7:30 PM



7:30PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

CAROLS AND LULLABIES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS MEDLEY(Instrumental Only) GEORGE F. HANDEL, JOHN F. WADE, JAMES R MURRAY

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL

JOHN RUTTER

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth
And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on high
Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary
Sleeping now at Bethlehem

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN (Instrumental only)

ARR. LANI SMITH

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

BUDDY GREENE

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
 Has walked where angels trod?
 When you kiss your little baby
 You kiss the face of God
 Mary, did you know?
 The blind will see, the deaf will hear
 The dead will live again
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
 The praises of the Lamb
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Is Lord of all creation?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
 Would one day rule the nations?
 Did you know that your baby boy
 Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
 That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am
 Mary, did you know?

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR (Instrumental Only)

ARR. LANI SMITH

THE HOLY INFANT'S LULLABY

NORMAN DELLO JOIO

Sleep, sleep.
 O rest you holy infant,
 Close your eyes to the star shining bright.
 Sleep in the arms of your mother who sings to you through the night!
 A la ru, a la me,
 Sleep, sleep, the angels sing praises in heaven
 While Mary sings lullaby loo.
 Dream of a day, gentle baby, when we learn love from you.
 A la ru, a la me
 Sleep, holy Child.

CAROL

JAMES LYONS

I sing a maiden that is mateless;
 King of all kings to her son she ches.
 He came all so still
 There His mother was,
 As dew in April that falleth on the grass.
 He came all so still To His mother's bower,
 As dew in April that falleth on the flower.
 He came all so still There His Mother lay,
 As dew in April that falleth on the spray.
 Mother and maiden was never more but she!
 Well may such a lady
 Goddes mother be!

LULLABY

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Lullaby and good night with roses bedight,
 With lilies o'erspread is baby's wee bed
 Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest,
 Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE MUSICIANS:

MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE & GUITAR; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; & JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

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

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord. Let the whole earth shout with joy before the Lord;

We lift up our voices with joy and singing: Great is our Lord, the King!

Your judgments are true, and all of creation awaits your rightful rule;

We lift up our voices with joy and singing: Great is our Lord, the King!

In righteousness will you judge the world and all the peoples, with equity;

We lift up our voices with joy and singing: Great is our Lord, the King!

Who is like our God, King over all the earth?

We lift up our voices with joy and singing: Great is our Lord, the King!

Let us pray -

Living God, on this holy night we gather — to stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy; for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

MIKE AND CATHY LEVITAS

* CAROL #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

“ADESTE FIDELES”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide us to the holy child Jesus, we confess that we have come to this manger before. Too often we have worshipped here and left without hearing what we should have heard and without changing what we needed to change. Gracious God, let this holy night be different. If we have come in skepticism, let us depart in awe. If we have come in despair, let us depart with renewed hope. If we have come in turmoil, let us depart in peace. Forgive any lack of love within us and renew our vision that we might see Christ's star shine in our world and follow your ways anew. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

SUNG RESPONSE #144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (Verse 4)

“CRANHAM”

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can give him: give my heart.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 52:7-10

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 642

ANTHEM

THE HANDS THAT FIRST HELD MARY'S CHILD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR & BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

DAN FORREST

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed
and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel
our Lord, newborn and frail.
When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes
and spoke the infant's name,
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
and like the host of stars that beamed
blessed earth with welcome light.
"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.
The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

SECOND READING

LUKE 2:1-7

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 54

* CAROL #140

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

"IRBY"

Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
Light of God grown bright within us, Let Thy love in us increase,
Shine through us in all our service, Lift us up in joy and peace.
Lead us in Thy path we pray, Make us one this holy day.

THIRD READING

LUKE 2:8-20

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 54

* CAROL #147

THE FIRST NOWELL

"THE FIRST NOWELL"

FOURTH READING

JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 86

SERMON

"ANEW"

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 TRIO

LULLY, LULLA, LULLY
MIKAYLA DODGE & ALISON PETERS, SOPRANOS; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE; BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; & JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

PHILIP STOPFORD

Lully lulla, lully lulla
Lully lulla, lully lulla
By by lully lullay
Lully lulla
Thou little tiny child
By by, lully lullay

Oh sisters too
How may we do
For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling
For whom we sing
By by lully lullay?

Lully lulla, lully lulla

Herod, the king
In his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of night
In his own sight
All young children to slay

Lully lulla, lully lulla

That woe is me
Poor child for the!
And ever morn and day
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by lully lullay!

Lully lulla
Thou little tiny child
By bye lully lullay
Lully lulla
Thou little tiny child
By by lully lullay

By bye lully lullay

* DOXOLOGY ##113

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

“GLORIA”

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* 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.....Mike & Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Musicians..... Brenda Luger, Flute; and Judith Brown, Organist
Vocalists.....The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge & Rev. Alison Peters, Sopranos; and Zach Dodge, Baritone & Guitar
Ushers..... Dave & Cindy 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.

YEAR END GIVING: Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2023. Remember that year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Friday, December 29th in order to qualify as 2023 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 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.



Monday, December 25, 2023- CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26, 2023- CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27, 2023- Office open until Noon
Thursday, December 28, 2023- Office open until Noon
Friday, December 29, 2023- CLOSED
Monday, January 1, 2024- CLOSED

**SESSION OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

CLERK OF SESSION

Carolyn Mathews

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Cindy Corley

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Linda Mellon

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Ann Kellermeyer

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023