

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

GATHERING

God of hope, peace, joy, and love, this is a day where we find ourselves in very different situations. Be with us in all our varied circumstances and moods. I pray that I, and all those within my circles of care, will be especially attentive to the angels' good news: that you have come to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. In this is our great joy. Amen.

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	arr. Joyful Ringers	Congregational Hymn (See pg. 5)
Sweet Little Jesus Boy	R. MacGimsey	Kate Vellis, alto
What Child Is This?	L. McKechnie	Chamber Orchestra
Gesu Bambino	P. Yon	Alexis Vellis, soprano
Away in a Manger	MUELLER	Congregational Hymn (See pg. 6)
Breath of Heaven	C. Eaton & A. Grant arr. L. Larson	Andrew Netardus and Alanna Parfait, duet
On Christmas Day in the Morn	F. Gramann	Handbell Ensemble
Ach senke doch den Geist der Freuden (Ah, let only the Spirit of Joy Sink into My Heart), BWV 73	J.S. Bach	Dr. Christopher Pfund, tenor

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Fred & Evelyn Lewis

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

Behold! Unto us a child is born.

Tonight the angels sing on earth.

Unto us a child is born this night, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord! | 2. True God from true God, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord! |
| 3. Sing, choirs of angels; Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord! | 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord! |

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING (See pg. 7)

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 638

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior

Silesian Folk Melody

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

Scott Stuart

* HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. 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!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GOSPEL READING (See pg. 7)

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 58

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Rev. Mark Hults

RESPONDING

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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

During the offering we invite you to use the Fellowship pad. Please fill it out and pass it down the pew and back again, making note of those who are worshipping with you.

The *Christmas Offering* will benefit St. Francis House, a local ministry, with the vision to end homelessness and hunger in our community. Their mission is to empower families with children to achieve permanent and stable self-sufficiency by providing case management; nutritious meals; and educational, health and career resources; in a safe and secure environment. Use the special *Christmas Offering* envelopes available in the pew rack or write "Christmas" on the memo line to donate to St. Francis House.

OFFERTORY

Angels' Carol

J. Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song. He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable, we have seen his birth: Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth.' He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; He will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the Earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn: Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born.'

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Gluten-Free Bread)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Instructions for Candle Lighting

Parents with small children should assist the children in lighting and holding candles. All participants should hold lit candles upright at all times. When lighting your neighbor's candle, tip the unlit candle only, to help prevent drippings of wax on the floor, furniture, and clothes.

As you exit during the postlude, drop your extinguished candles in the empty bins provided.

* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

2. 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."

3. 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.

4. 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.

SENDING

* CHRISTMAS EVE BLESSING

* HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Please extinguish candles during the introduction to Joy to the World.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Church Sonata No. 11 in D Major, K. 245

W.A. Mozart

Elaina Cook & Linda Swanson, violin

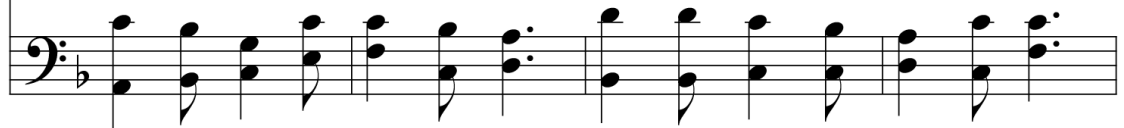
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



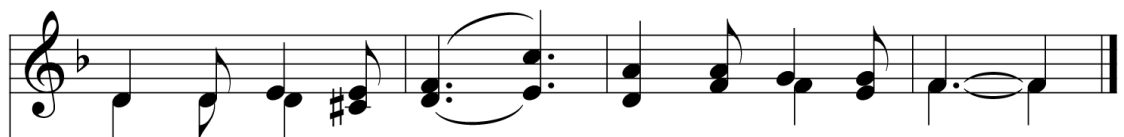
Soloist: 1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
CONGREGATION: 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
CONGREGATION: 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;



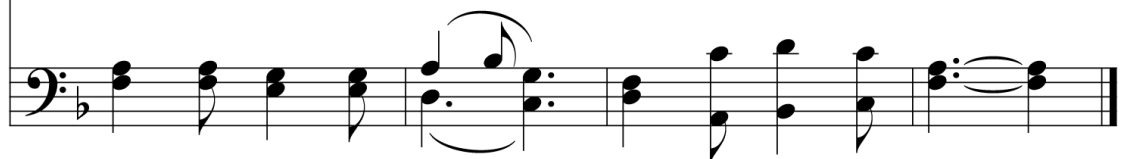
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.

MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO

6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5

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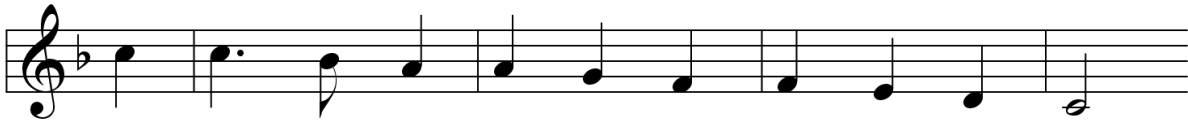
Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

MUELLER
11.11.11.11
(alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)

Orchestrations: The setting of "Away in a Manger" is by Robert Hobby; the setting of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is by David Willcocks; the settings of "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Joy to the World" are by Jeremy Bankson; and the setting of "Silent Night" is by Robert Powell.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THIS EVENING IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Mitch Rorick

A/v TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, Frank Counts, John Rayl

USHERS: Roger Bachmann, Ken Mears, Mary Lou Schubert, Sarah Whitfield

ACOLYTE: Parker Mears

CHANCEL CHOIR

CONDUCTORS: Andrew Netardus, Mitch Rorick

BASS: Dan Peterson

CLARINET: Dale Fedede

FLUTE: Christine Alicot

OBOE: John Netardus

PERCUSSION: Dr. Wendy Gunther

TRUMPET: Calvin Pfund

VIOLIN 1: Elaina Cook

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

SOLOISTS: Alanna Parfait, Wendy Gunther

CELLO: Dr. Tim Mutschlecner

EUPHONIUM: Thomas Chamberlain

HANDBELL TREE: Andrew Osmun

ORGAN & PIANO: Anait Piloyan

TIMPANI: Don McGarity

VIOLA: Jean Quillen

VIOLIN 2: Linda Swanson

May Jesus bless you and yours and may the light of the Christ Child
continue to shine through you as you share His love with others.

Merry Christmas from the First Presbyterian Church Staff.

First Presbyterian Church

At First Presbyterian Church, we strive to *Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs*. Join us for worship on Sundays in the chapel at 8:30 a.m. or the sanctuary at 11 a.m., visit our YouTube Channel to worship online, or watch the broadcast on Cox Channel 11 at 9 a.m. For more on any of our ministries, please email the staff or contact church office at (352) 378-1527.

Do you know someone who loves working with children and youth? We are currently looking for a new ministry leader to oversee all faith formation opportunities for these ages. This is a full-time position which collaborates with a team of invested volunteers and partners with families in meaningful ways. For more information, please contact the church office at (352) 378-1527 or visit www.1stpc.org to apply.

Our College Ministry is for both undergrad and graduate students. We meet regularly on Sunday mornings for worship and a lunch, on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for Bible Study, and during the year for outreach projects, special events, and retreats. Contact Scott Stuart.

The Young Adult Ministry is for post-college through empty-nesters. This includes singles and couples who are navigating careers and/or families. If this describes you; Thanks for being here! We hope you also consider this your invitation to join us - When you can - for - What you can! Contact Fred Lundy.

Ministry of Music: With choirs for all voices aged three and above, we welcome all ages to join in dedicating their voices to God. Throughout the year we sponsor Concerts for a Cause, whose proceeds support mission partners locally and globally. Our next concert, *Human Trafficking: Finding Freedom*, is Sunday, January 12 at 4 p.m. Contact Mitch Rorick.

At First Presbyterian Preschool, we believe it is important for children to experience a Christian environment and take part in religious activities. Our qualified and degreed teachers also emphasize school readiness and literacy with a hands-on approach to teaching. Contact Lisa Hershkowitz.

Online Contributions: Go to www.1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and designate a ministry in the memo. Contact Trudy Bonerba.

Year-End Giving: Contributions to the church made through Tuesday, December 31, 2024 will be credited to the calendar year 2024. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on December 29, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. There will be limited office hours after Christmas. If you need to stop in, please plan on coming on Monday or Tuesday, December 30 or 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

The Poinsettias Decorating the Church are Given

In Loving Memory of

- Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley by Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Dr. & Mrs. Fred O. Brumfield by Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- C. Valentine Bates by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- Marjorie P. MacKenzie by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- William M. MacKenzie by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- John Bonerba by Trudy Bonerba
- Cecila A. Caton, wife and mother, by the Caton Family
- Our parents by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Shawn Coffey by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Dr. Carter R. Gilbert by the Gilbert Family
- Dr. & Mrs. Gerald O. Mott by their family
- Beloved husband and father, Joseph W. Gilkey, Sr. by his wife, Heather, and family
- Robert F. Hyatt, Jr. & Doris Young Hyatt by Robert & Lou Hyatt
- Leonard & Carolyn Willey by Robert & Lou Hyatt
- Ralph & Shirley Lingg by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- Ben Samuels by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- Rev. Dr. James R. Neale, Jr. by Elisa Neale-Tobener
- Helen & Harold Derr and Shirley & Bernie Sharkey by Mary & Richard Sharkey
- My husband, Ben, by Eleanor Samuels
- Claude & Margaret Allen, Irbie Johnson, and Homer & Stella Samuels by Eleanor Samuels
- Gene & Nancy Spiegel by the Spiegel Family
- My parents, Richard J. & Clarice Anderson, by Eileen Anderson Stephens
- Cissy Walker by Steve Walker & Rachel Williams
- Mary Walker by Steve Walker & Rachel Williams

In Honor of

- Our grandchildren, Wyatt, Finn, Wade, and Hazel, by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Jean St. John by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Hurricane Relief in North Carolina by Kevin & Andra Golden
- Eleanor Samuels and John Lingg by Margaret & Howard Lingg
- The LOGOS Committee - Beverly Vloedman, Evelyn Lewis, Margaret Dowling, Megan Conerly, Jessica Berger, Megan Greer, and Mitch Rorick by the LOGOS children and youth
- My mother, Elizabeth S. Neale, by Elisa Neale-Tobener
- My children, Dr. Elizabeth Tobener and Dr. Hank Tobener, by Elisa Neale-Tobener
- My children, Cindy, Margaret, Benford, and Allen, and my grandchildren by Eleanor Samuels
- Travis & Carol Frances Hoffman's new marriage and the happy years to come by the Spiegel Family
- My children and grandchildren - Caraline, Patrick, Jacob, Addison, Alix, & Penelope - by Eileen Anderson Stephens

