

GATHERING

At the beginning of this day, O God, you are with me, like light scattering darkness. Be with me to the end, and to the beginning of the life that even death cannot destroy; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Medley of Carols
Dr. Robert Tucker, piano

R. Tucker

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God's own people. Praise be to God!

* HYMN 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love and compassion, you have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus our Christ. 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.

* HYMN 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NRSV)

NT pg. 192

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

See, Amid the Winter's Snow
Delaney Geiser, soprano

D. Forrest

Alleluia. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn, sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia. Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies, He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine, thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. Alleluia!

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

* HYMN 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

- 1 *He came down that we may have love;*
- 2 *He came down that we may have light;*
- 3 *He came down that we may have peace;*
- 4 *He came down that we may have joy;*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 147:12-20 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 582

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Praise the Lord

Jonathon Haney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* 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

OFFERTORY

Holy Jesus Child

M. Patterson

Delaney Geiser, soprano

Rest your head, go to sleep, we will worship at your feet. Son of God, Prince of peace, holy Jesus child. Christ awaits, come and see, come, behold the newborn King. Love and joy to all he brings, holy Jesus child. Angel choirs gladly sing songs of joy to welcome thee, watching o'er you while you dream, holy Jesus child. Shepherds, come, leave your sheep, all your worldly cares will keep, see the babe here fast asleep, holy Jesus child.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* 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.

SENDING

* HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

L. Afdahl

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Thomas Chamberlain, Jonathon Haney, Coleen O'Brien, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Coleen O'Brien

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

TRUMPET: Calvin Pfund

VIOLIN: Cordelia Pfund

8:30 A.M. USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; **11 A.M. USHERS:** Paul Bennett, Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Mary Lou Schubert, Carol Turner

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, John Rayl, Robert Richardson

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Pauline Hipple by the FitzGerald family.

TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS. As such, the hymns, prelude, anthem, offertory, and postlude relate to Christmas. We are grateful to Dr. Robert Tucker (prelude), Delaney Gesier (anthem and offertory), and Calvin and Cordelia Pfund (hymns) for sharing their musical gifts with us today.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Leadership

Rev. Mark Hults
Pastor

Coleen O'Brien
Clerk of Session

Dink Henderson
Treasurer

Session

Class of 2026
Greg Dowling
Perry Foote
Andy Greer
Margaret Lingg
Susannah Peddie
Dick Rauber
Steve Walker

Class of 2027
Rachel Coffey
Colin Conerly
BarBee Geiger
Evelyn Lewis
Coleen O'Brien
Rose Anna Rutledge
Eileen Stephens
Rick Young

Class of 2028
Elizabeth Bolton
Georgine Hager
Sue Kossuth
Elisa Neale-Tobener
Dean Schoenfeld
Nick Vellis
Andy Vloedman

Class of 2026
Mark Coffey
Mimi Gray
Dean Schoenfeld
Jane Smith

Diaconate

Class of 2027
Buzz Boyd
Mimi Carr
Bob Tucker
Beth Wood

Class of 2028
Holli Best
Thomas Chamberlain
Andra Golden
Susan Roland

Trustees

Class of 2026
Geoff Spiegel
Kate Vellis

Class of 2027
Kevin Golden
David Osmun

Class of 2028
Ken Mears
Brenda Pickens

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

Director of College Ministry

Jonathon Haney - 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

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.

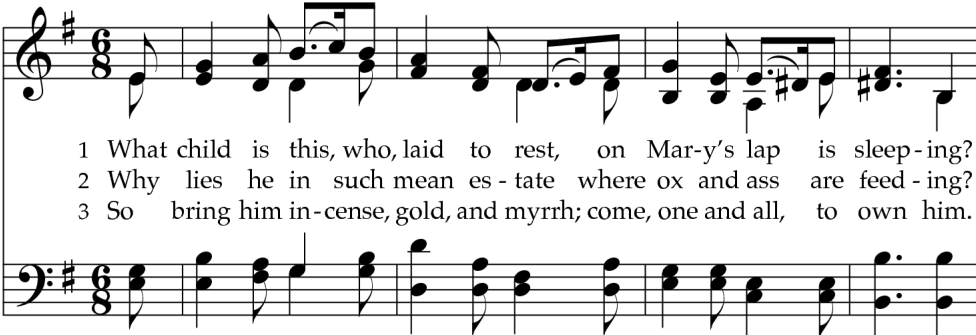
It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

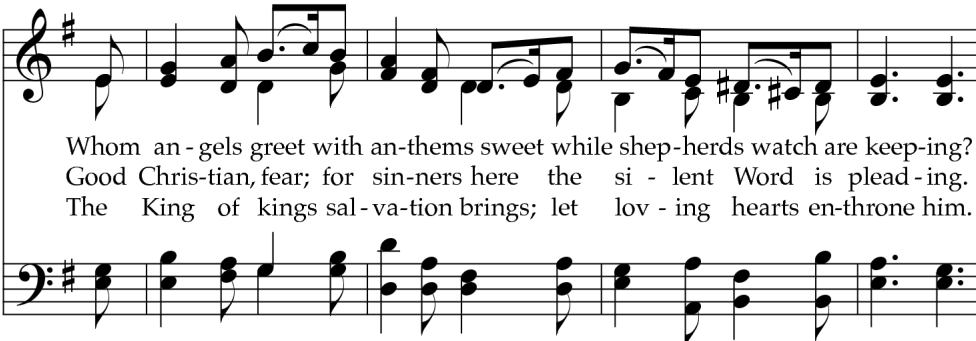
Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

145

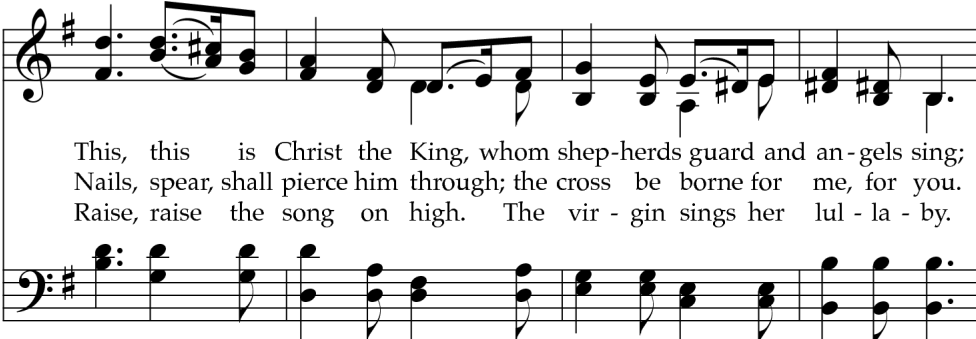
What Child Is This



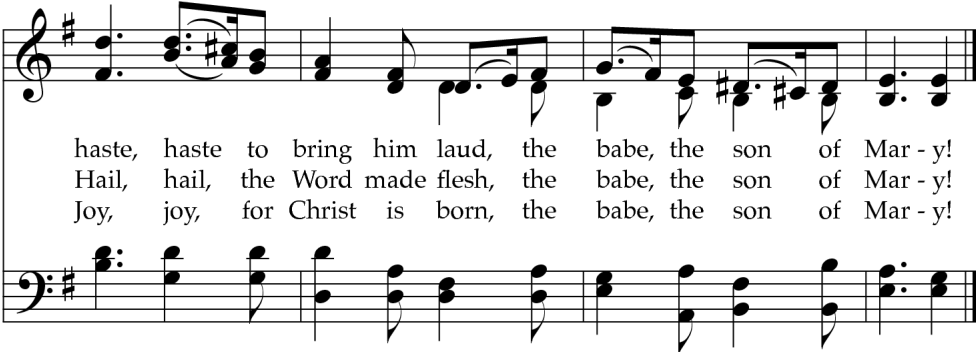
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
 ... that we may have peace
 ... that we may have joy

- ¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.
¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.
¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.
¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.
¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs — who can stand before his cold?
¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -
 her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness
 and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

ANTIOCH
 CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836



Start the New Year with Service

Many of you came out to help decorate the church for Advent. In the new year, please join us on Monday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.



Senior Saints - Friday, January 9, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.

We start the new year by meeting in Gordon Hall for a light lunch from Sweet Berries. (Cost: \$5 each) Our program will be a treat as Tim Mutschlecner will present a cello program. Tim has a doctorate from the University of Florida, taught at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Pointe, and has played with the Cleveland Symphony. You've also heard him at services here at FPC! Please, if you plan to come, reply to: 1stpcSeniorSaints@gmail.com. Also, let us know if you request a vegetarian sandwich.



Epiphany Party

Join us next Sunday, January 11 after 11 a.m. worship in Gordon Hall for fellowship, food, and activities for families and all ages hosted by the Christian Education Committee.



Ocean Voyage Immersive Concert III

Join us on Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m. for a spectacular concert that plunges into the deepest, wildest corners of the sea. In addition to stunning visuals, this concert features Dance Alive National Ballet, the Gainesville Youth Chorus, our very own Chancel Choir, and guest musicians. From playful waves to treacherous storms and hidden treasures, this performance is a musical voyage guaranteed to leave you breathless!

Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.


Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at 1stpc.org