



Nativity Window, Amiens Cathedral, France

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Sunday, December 18, 2022
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Marna & John Loucks

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,
to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.
Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.
Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery,
with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Love.

As the candles are lit, all sing:

***Come now, O Prince of Love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*** (Hymn 103)

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you. Neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants that you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 88)

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 136)

GO TELL IT

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.***

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)*

CHORAL MUSIC

Some Children See Him
Dakota DeGraw, Soloist

Alfred Burt

THE WORD

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

TELL US THE STORY

Carol *Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.*

THE PROPHETS

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY AND JOSEPH

Carol 121 *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

THE EMPEROR'S DECREE

Carol 122 *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.*

THE INN IN BETHLEHEM

Carol *Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, strong and good.*

(Verses 2-5 are sung by soloists)

*Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.*

Carol 115 *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

ANGELS APPEAR TO SHEPHERDS

Carol 113 *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!*

THE SHEPHERDS SEEK THE CHILD

Carol 147 *The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

WISE ONES MEET THE BABY

Carol 151 *We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

LET US RECEIVE HIM

Carol 134 *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.*

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Carol *Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others, love for plea and gift and sign.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Lullay, My Liking
Shelby Ratliff, Solo

Matthew Owens

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available in baskets for a contact-free option.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND DEDICATION OF CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet.

Bless the food we will share with others today. Be with the families and children of this community. We join in the holy work of filling hungry bodies. Let us not stop there, but strive with urgency toward a day when none of your children will be hungry. Our giving is an act of worship to you, Emmanuel, God with us. Send us to serve with loving, generous spirits, ready to see you in the faces our neighbors.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Communion Servers: *Brad Smith, Patrick & Andrea Wallace*



The flowers adorning our sanctuary today are given by Martina Temple in memory of Dick Temple.

The Life of the Church

Christmas Baskets will be delivered today. We need your help! We will be distributing assignments in Fellowship Hall following worship today. Our scouts from Troop 611 will assist you with loading your vehicle. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important project!

The Longest Night Service will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00pm. This service is a time to acknowledge the grief, pain, and struggles many of us bear that can seem worse this time of year. This time of prayer, song, candlelighting, and communion, is an opportunity to share the gift of hope we find in community with one another.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2. Please contact Pastor Matt if you have an urgent pastoral need during this time.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

Christmas Worship Schedule

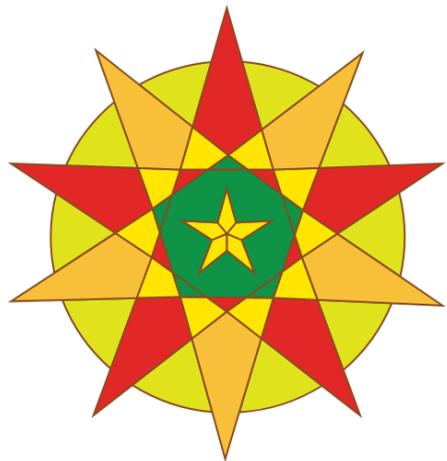
Wednesday, December 21 | 6:00pm
Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 24 | 6:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25 | 10:30am
Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, January 1 | 10:30am
First Sunday of Christmas Worship

Sunday, January 8 | 10:30am
Epiphany Sunday Worship

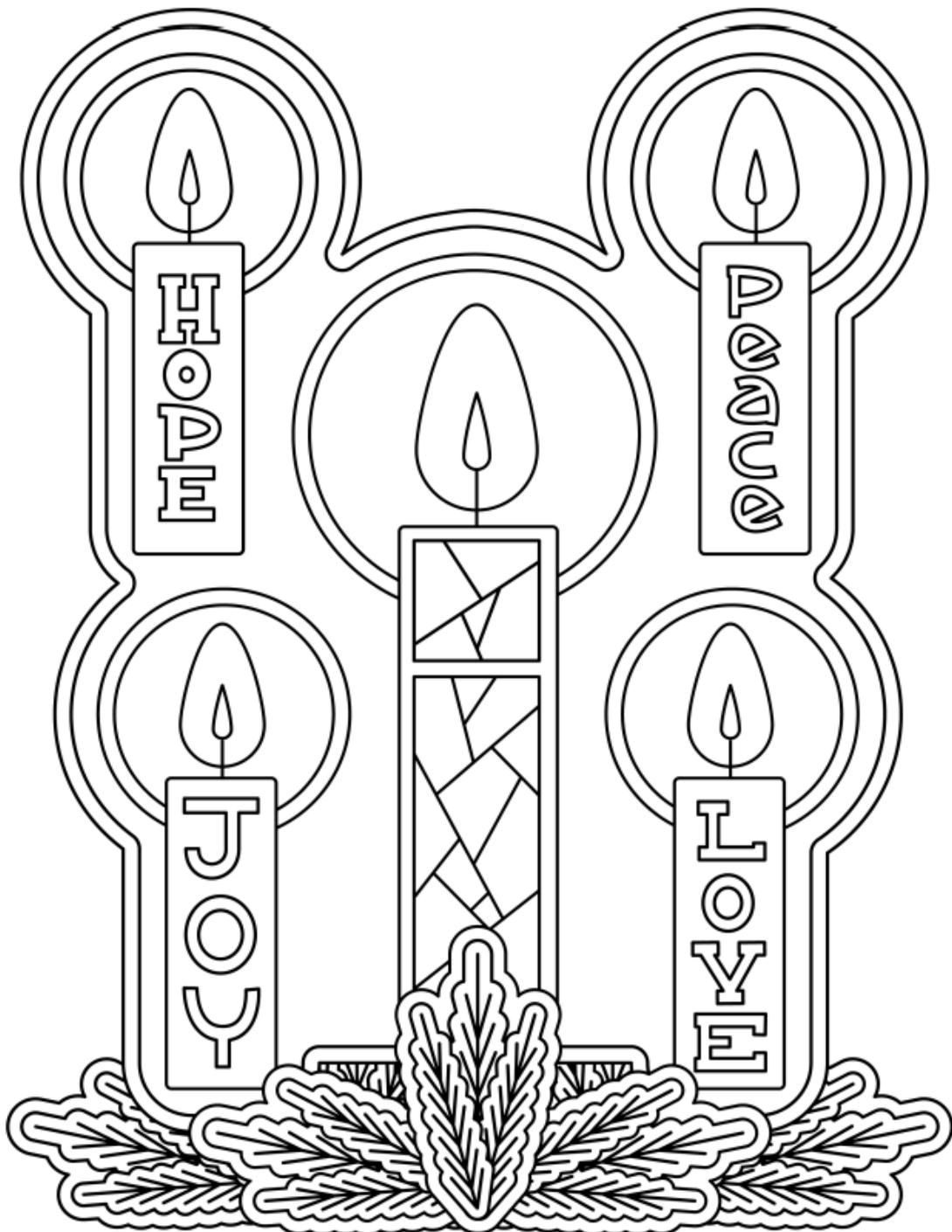


Christmas Pageant Cast

<i>Papa</i>	Jeremy Brailsford
<i>Kids</i>	Ella Grace Hicks Gus Moore
<i>Prophets</i>	Harley Bravo Claudia Johnson Anna Robinson
<i>Gabriel</i>	Annie Jones
<i>Mary</i>	Kirtley Bates
<i>Joseph</i>	Miles Moore
<i>Caesar Augustus</i>	Lilly Colburn
<i>Innkeeper</i>	Alex Bates
<i>Angels</i>	Marrett Baker Gia Hamilton Sylvie Johnson Anna Lucy Morrison
<i>Shepherds</i>	Killian Brailsford Jay Hamilton Paxton Hicks Asher Wallace Cohen Wallace
<i>Wise Ones</i>	Bella Bravo David Leishman Lucy Smith

Special Thanks to:

Marsha Nash, for creative updates to our script
Larry Hale, for set construction and set-up
The families of our youth and kids





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive
community of faith called to proclaim
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,
and to join God in the building of a
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Kevin Parker, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider