



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
Sunday, December 19, 2021  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Ashley, Corey, Arlo, Claudia & Sylvie Johnson

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**In Christ there is life and light for all people.** *Jn. 1*

Now lift up your heads and rejoice: your redeemer is drawing near. *Lk. 21*

Prepare the way of the Holy One! All flesh will see the salvation of God. *Lk. 3*

Christ has come to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. *Lk. 3*

The Mighty One has done great things for us; holy is the name of God. *Lk. 1*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!** *Lk. 2*

### OPENING PRAYER

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 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Isa. 12:2*

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**An angel spoke to Mary: “Do not be afraid!” And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In Jesus Christ 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 88)

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

*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.*

## THE WORD

### THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CAROL 110     *Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

### 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.*

*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.*

### THE INN IN BETHLEHEM

CAROL 115     *Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

#### THE PROPHET'S WORDS

CAROL 146 *Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in the manger;  
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!*

#### 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!*

*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!*

#### 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.*

*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 wonder, wonders of his love.*

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

CAROL 110     *Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

\*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.**

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS

*Being ordained and/or installed today are Tom Furlong, Creda Heffelfinger, Ashley Hicks, Patrick Wallace, and Janice Odom.*

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept Tom, Creda, Patrick, and Ashley as elders and Janice as a deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church? **We do.**

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Christmas Joy Offering

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

\*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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 134

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

### LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

*Rev. Matt Curry*

Communion Servers: *Janice Odom, Creda Heffelfinger & Cindy Little*

### **Thanks to our youth and children for telling the Christmas story so beautifully today:**

Anna Robinson, Bella Bravo, Miles Moore, Ella Grace Hicks, Annie Jones, Claudia Johnson,

David Leishman, Alex Bates, Gus Moore, Sylvie Johnson, Gia Hamilton, Merritt Baker,  
Brissa Gonzalez, Henry Baker, Paxton Hicks, Jay Hamilton, Killian Brailsford, Harley Bravo,  
Lilly Colburn, and Kirtley Bates.

# The Life of the Church

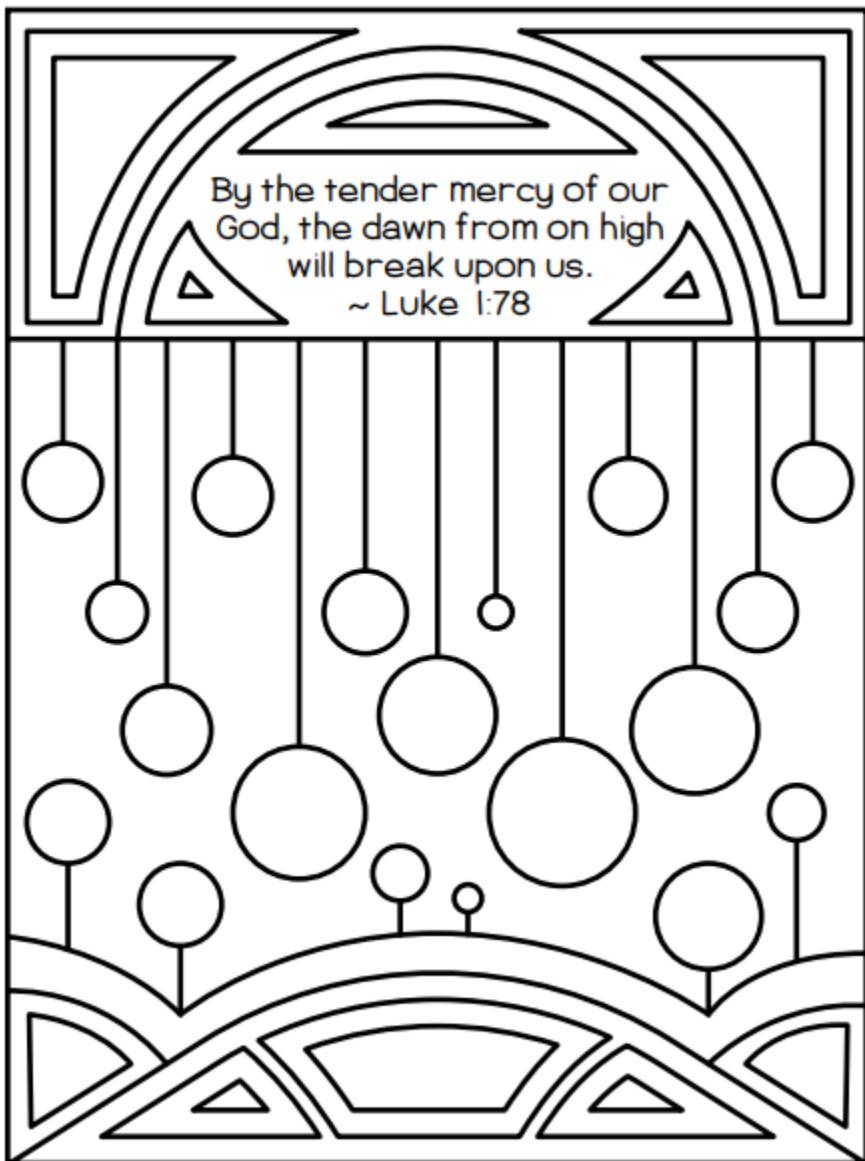
**Christmas Basket Delivery** begins immediately following worship today. There are 80 baskets to deliver, so we need your help. Head to the Fellowship Hall to receive your assignments. Thanks to our scouts from Troop 611 who are helping load up cars.

**The Longest Night Service** will be held Tuesday, 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.

**Our Christmas Eve Service** will be held at 6:00pm on Friday evening. This traditional service will include communion, candle lighting, and special music from the choir and instrumentalists. The entirety of the offering will go to First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield to help them rebuild what was lost in the tornado. There will not be nursery care provided; as always, children of all ages are welcome in worship.

**2021 Financial Contributions** must be received in the church office by 10:00am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (as long as it is dated in 2021) to be applied toward your 2021 Giving Statement. Thank you for your generosity!

**The Church Office** will be closed in the week following Christmas, reopening January 4. If there is a pastoral need during this time, contact Jerry Price. Jeff Moles will lead worship on December 26 and January 2.



By the tender mercy of our  
God, the dawn from on high  
will break upon us.  
~ Luke 1:78



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  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Patrick Ritsch, Organist  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary  
Dylan Schroader, Custodian  
Kate Bowley, Nursery Care Provider