

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24, 2021
6:00 P.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTROIT

Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul

Nordquist

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Marna & John Loucks

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

Behold, there is good news of great joy for all people:

Lk. 2

to us is born a Savior, the Messiah.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Lk. 2

OPENING PRAYER

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night.

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

LITANY OF ADORATION & THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Glory to you, almighty God,

for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
for you direct and rule our lives.

Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The baptismal water is poured.

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the wonder and love you offer us through the gift of our baptism—your Word made flesh among us, a child and Savior born to us, good news of great joy for all. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out for us in baptism, let us be born anew from above so that we may give glory to you and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World
verses 1 and 4

ANTIOCH

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

READING Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN #145 *What Child is This?* GREENSLEEVES

READING Luke 2:1-7

CHORAL RESPONSE *Away in a Manger* arr. Scott

READING Luke 2:8-20

HYMN #145 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

CHORAL RESPONSE *Brightest and Best* arr. Kirchner

HOMILY “Do Not Be Afraid” Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *John 1:1-5, 10-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The entirety of tonight's offering will go to the First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky, to assist in rebuilding their church building and community following the devastating tornado two weeks ago.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

*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

Christ Jesus, born among us, as a mother feeds her child with her body, so you feed us with yours, giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink. May these gifts of grace nourish us deeply, that we may become your body in the world and live as instruments of your great love. Amen.

THE SENDING

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN 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.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

HYMN 123 *It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

Hymn 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! 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.*

(You are invited to raise your candles for the final verse.)

*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.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT

Preacher: Rev. Matt Curry

Assisting: Jeff Moles

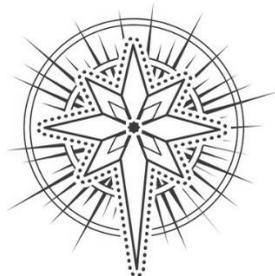
Liturgists: Ashlyn Dube, Jaron Curry, Emma Curry

Musicians: Lacey Jean, violin; Chase Rodriguez, violin;
Katy Tenbarga, cello; Greg Olsen, bass

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

Dennis Jewett, Music Director

Patrick Ritsch, Organist





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.



1328 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Kentucky
270.684.1467
fpcobky.com

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