

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

6:00 P.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Two Chorale Preludes

Paul Manz

I. In Dulci Jubilo II. Quelle est cette odeur agréable?

The First Nowell

Hunter Jones, Guitar

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Susan Godthaab & Family

Darkness is all around,

but great things happen in the dark.

Seeds planted in the dark bloom into flowers.

Humans formed in the dark are born.

From within the night we see a great light.

That light is the presence of God.

We greet a child, Emmanuel, God with us.

Let us live in the light of the coming of Christ.

As the candles are lit, all sing the following through three times:

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.**

LITANY OF ADORATION & THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

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.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Sing through three times. See printed music on previous page.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, Alleluia! Alleluia!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Ava Wiggins, Soprano & Will Jones, Baritone

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	Caroline Lashbrook
HYMN #147	<i>The First Nowell</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL
READING	Luke 2:1-7	Sam Smith
SOLO	<i>Sleep Song</i> Sarah Nell Martin, Soprano	Desmond Earley
READING	Luke 2:8-20	Ben Robinson
HYMN #145	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
SOLO	<i>O Holy Night</i> Tevin Vincent, Baritone	Adolphe Adam
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

Tonight's offering will benefit local projects selected by our Mission Committee:

- *Shelter for survivors of domestic violence served by OASIS Shelter;*
- *Work with refugees and immigrants done by The International Center and Owensboro Community & Technical College;*
- *And free dental services for children in need provided by the Goodfellows.*

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Still, Still, Still

arr. Norman Luboff

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 134)

ANTIOCH

**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.**

**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 sound in joy.**

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. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ben Goodwin, Cello

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and astounding God, at this table, in this meal, we have been met by Christ—the reflection of your glory, the imprint of your being. As we go from this place may our lives be a joyful song, proclaiming the good news of your righteousness and peace for all the world. Amen.

THE SENDING

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Hymn 145

**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one, and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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

Liturgists: Caroline Lashbrook, Ben Robinson, and Sam Smith

Communion Servers: John, Kim, and Jack Lashbrook

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

Dennis Jewett, Music Director

Jeff Moles, Organist

POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In Memory of
Betty Jean Galloway
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

In Memory of
Alice Schmutz Malony
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

In Memory of Norris Harris
BY BETTY HARRIS

In Memory of
Bill, Doris, and Brenda Baker
BY MARILYN, BELLA, AND LAURA

In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Davis &
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Furlong
BY TOM & SUSAN FURLONG

In Memory of Pam Kirtley
BY COREY, ASHLEY, ARLO,
CLAUDIA, AND SYLVIE JOHNSON

In Memory of Robin Potter
BY HER SISTER PATRICIA
SMEATHERS

In Memory of
Mary Jane & Harris Shelvelson
and Ned Shevelson
BY MARY LOU TAYLOR

In Memory of Jerry Nail
BY SUSAN NAIL

In Memory of Alice Renfrow
BY SUSAN NAIL

In Memory of W. Dale Guyer
BY SUZANNE GUYER

In Memory of
Kate & Hewlett Bell
BY GLENDA & JERRY PRICE

In Memory of
Maxine & Jerry Price
BY GLENDA & JERRY PRICE

In Memory of Paul E. Oakley
BY DENNIS JEWETT

In Memory of
Les and Velva Curry
BY REV. MATT CURRY

In Honor of
Jaron and Emma Curry
BY REV. MATT CURRY

In Honor of the
Worship Committee & Staff
BY DON PREUSS

In Memory of Barbara Grimes
BY DEBBIE HUTCHINSON

In Memory of
Rose Grimes Stinson
BY DEBBIE HUTCHINSON

In Memory of Dick Temple
BY TINA TEMPLE

In Memory of All the Family
that Has Gone Before Me
BY TINA TEMPLE

In Memory of Guy Hisle
BY HIS FAMILY

In Memory of
Dayton Heffelfinger, Sr.
BY CRED A HEFFELFINGER
AND FAMILY

In Memory of
Cindy Hicks Little
BY CRED A HEFFELFINGER

In Honor of
Ray & Nancy Kramer
BY THE FAMILIES OF FRITZ &
CHRISTY KRAMER, STAN &
EVELYN KRAMER, AND
JIM & MARGARET KRAMER
SEIFFERT

In Memory of
Winifred Jennings Kramer
BY THE FAMILIES OF
FRITZ & CHRISTY KRAMER,
STAN & EVELYN KRAMER, AND
JIM & MARGARET KRAMER
SEIFFERT

In Memory of Mimi Davis
and Jane Stevenson
BY BRETT DAVIS

