

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

10:30 A.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

Marilyn Van Winkle, Julie and Sydney Smith

Prepare the way for the people.

Behold, our salvation comes.

Go through, go through the gates.

Behold, our salvation comes.

Stretch out, stretch out the highway.

Behold, our salvation comes.

Lift up, lift up a banner over the redeemed.

As four Advent candles are lit, all sing this refrain (hymn #90) three times through:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!

God-with-us, we have not earned salvation, but out of your goodness and loving kindness, you give it anyway. As we wait for your new dawn, we give thanks for the mercy given to us in Jesus Christ, through the waters of rebirth, by the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Teach us to respond to your grace with our lives, that our works might share the hope of eternal life. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace! In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

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 in 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

THE EMPEROR'S DECREE

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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

THE MANGER

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.**

THE PROPHETS' WORDS

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.**

**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.**

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Carol 136 **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***
- 3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

THE SHEPHERDS SEEK THE CHILD

Carol 136 There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
(Congregation **Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**
sings lines in It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
bold type) **Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

Refrain:
**Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. *Refrain*

WISE ONES MEET THE BABY

Carol 151

All join in singing on the fifth verse:

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
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 wonders, 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 in 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!**

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The 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:

Sung by all:

**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 prayer continues.*

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

The Children and Youth of FPC

Rev. Matt Curry

Communion Servers: CeCe, Ben, and Anna Robinson



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Tonight at 6:00 P.M.



Christmas Pageant Cast

<i>Narrator</i>	Jeremy Brailsford
<i>Prophets</i>	Lucy Smith Bella Bravo Anna Robinson
<i>Gabriel</i>	Harley Bravo
<i>Mary</i>	Kirtley Bates
<i>Joseph</i>	David Leishman
<i>Caesar Augustus</i>	Alex Bates
<i>Cousin</i>	Claudia Johnson
<i>Angels</i>	Lilly Colburn Gia Hamilton Sylvie Johnson Merrett Baker Caroline Baker
<i>Shepherds</i>	Killian Brailsford Jay Hamilton Paxton Hicks Asher Wallace Cohen Wallace Jensen Fowler
<i>Wise Ones</i>	Alex Khan Pat Corkran Bryan Leazenby
<i>Jesus</i>	Alexis Fowler
<i>Director</i>	Stephanie Dube
<i>Musician</i>	Jeff Moles

The Life of the Church

Rev. Patrick Wallace has taken a call to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield, Kentucky, beginning in January. Patrick will be filling our pulpit next Sunday, December 31 and there will be a reception following worship to say thank you to Patrick, Andi, Asher, and Cohen for all of the ways they have enriched our church over the past three years and to wish them well in this next chapter. Volunteers are needed to provide cookies or brownies. A basket will be available for cards.

An Epiphany Lunch will be held following worship on Sunday, January 7. Use the form on the insert in today's bulletin to RSVP. There will be a \$5 suggested donation per person, \$25 max per family.

The Church Office will be closed until Tuesday, January 2.

Annual Reports from each church committee are due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 11, 2024.

End of Year Donations must be received by the office no later than January 8, 2024 to be credited to your 2023 statement.

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

Church Financial Update

Week Ending Dec. 23

Income: \$22,818.27
Expense: \$ 2,850.91
Balance: \$19,967.36

Year-To-Date (As of Dec. 23)

Income: \$577,422.49
Expenses: \$644,151.60
Balance: -\$66,729.11

Month of December (As of Dec. 23)

Income: \$58,836.91
Expense: \$58,863.31
Balance: -\$26.40

Our church is only able to do its ministry because of the generous giving of its members and friends. Thank you for your gifts.

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

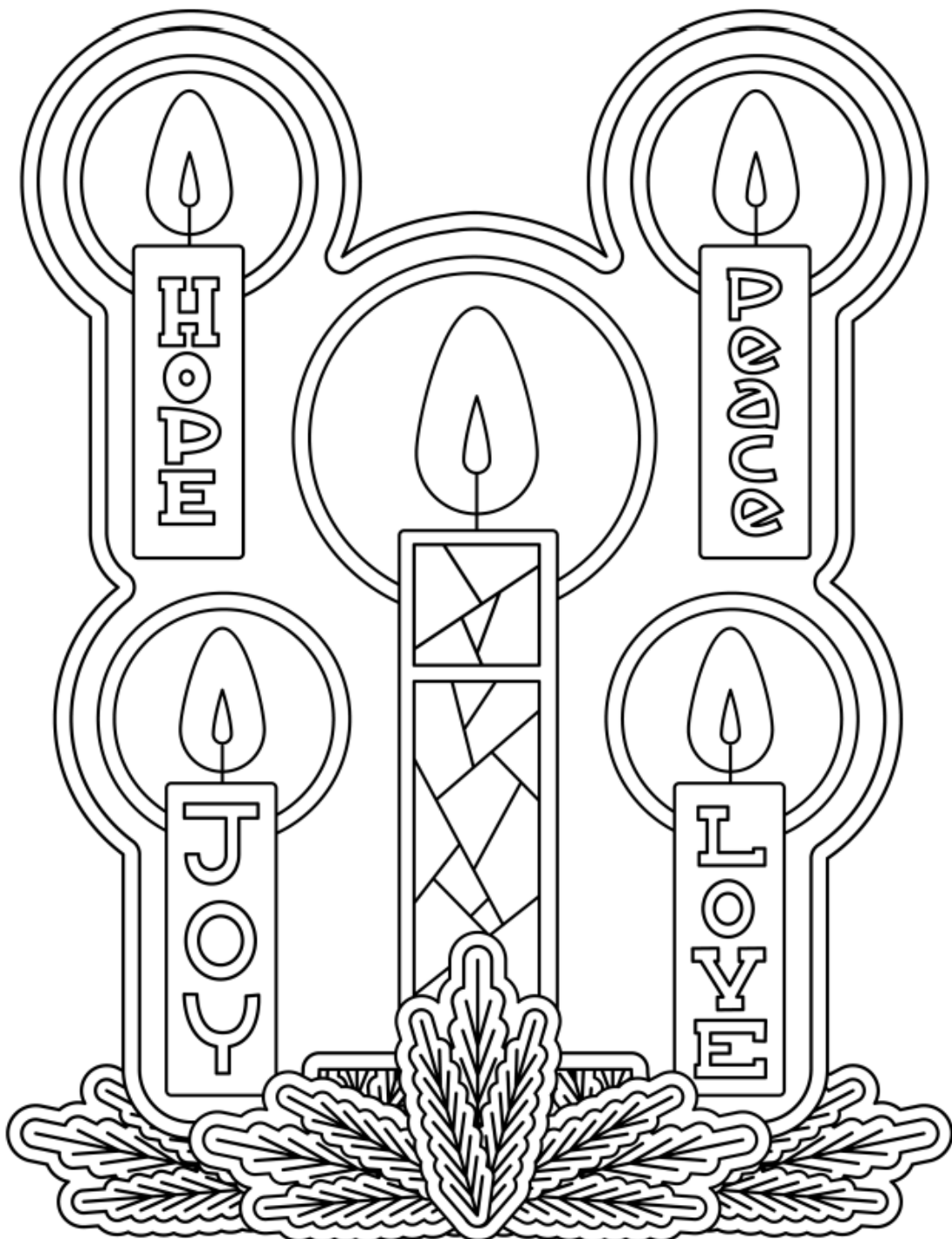
In Memory of
Cindy Hicks Little
BY CRED A HEFFELFINGER

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







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.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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FPCOwensboro



fpcobky

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Curry
Pastor

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian
Education & Mission

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian