



# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

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## THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY      Improvisation on Seasonal Tunes

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We have watched; we have waited:  
in hope.  
for peace.  
in joy!  
with love.

**Now our redemption draws near!**

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7: (O.T. p. 638)

Glory to God in the highest!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

\*HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

### LITANY OF ADORATION & THANKSGIVING

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

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

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

**Glory to God in the highest! On us has light dawned.**

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

**Glory to God in the highest! His name is Jesus, which means God with us.**

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

**Glory to God in the highest! He will establish justice and righteousness.**

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

**Glory to God in the highest! Our Christ has come!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest, full of grace and truth.**

*The baptismal water is poured.*

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for 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, let us 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 by the birth 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 (HYMN 147)**

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**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.**

**\*READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

**\*READING**

Luke 2:1-14

**\*HYMN 135**

*There's a Star in the East*

FOLLOW

*During the singing of this carol, the children are invited to make their way to the steps for the reading of the Christmas story.*

**READING**

*Home By Another Way: A Christmas Story* by Barbara Brown Taylor

**ANTHEM**

*Mary Had a Baby*

arr. Roland Carter

**HOMILY**

*The Visited Planet*

Rev. Matthew Covington

**HYMN 145**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

\*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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING\*

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*Hallelujah*  
Kerry & Terri Showers, Vocalists

L. Cohen

\*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.**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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: (HYMN 562)

*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

Improvisation on *O Holy Night*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of shepherds and sheep, we give you thanks that you have gathered us here, revealed to us your glory, and fed us with your mercy. Now send us out with good news for all—for us a child is born: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### THE SENDING

#### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*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

Please do not extinguish your candle! We will carry our lit candle out of the building  
and into the night.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*In dulci jubilo, BWV 729*

JS Bach

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**LEADING OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT**

Preacher: Rev. Matthew Covington

Liturgist: Pat Corkran

Communion Servers: Glenda Price & Patti Price

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Robinson Family

***\*100% of tonight's offering will go to Goodfellows Club. Please make checks payable  
to FPC with Goodfellows in the memo.***

The flower arrangements in the sanctuary today are given in  
memory of Dayton Heffelfinger by Creda Heffelfinger and Family  
and in memory of Jean Fortune given by Ellen Sweet

# POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In Memory of Pam Kirtley  
BY BOB KIRTLEY

In Memory of  
Mary Louise Kirtley  
BY BOB KIRTLEY

In Memory of  
Elisabeth Gasser (Aunt Boo)  
BY BOB KIRTLEY

In Memory of  
Ashlyn Dube  
BY STEPHANIE, ANDREW &  
ALEXIS DUBE

In Memory of  
Otis Hicks  
BY SUSAN HICKS

In memory of  
Bob Williams  
BY SUSAN HICKS

In Honor of Caroline Ahnell  
BY PATRICIA SMEATHERS

IN MEMORY OF Bill Van Winkle  
BY MARILYN VAN WINKLE

In Memory of Janie Douglas  
BY CHARLIE DOUGLAS & FAMILY

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs.  
Joseph Furlong  
BY TOM & SUSAN FURLONG

In Memory of  
Sally & Terry Howard  
BY LINDA YOUNG

In Memory of Dale & Jeanette  
Wagner  
BY MIKE BAUMGARTNER &  
FAMILY

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

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

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.C.  
Davis Jr.  
BY SUSAN FURLONG

In Memory of Karen D.  
Sanders & Robert Godthaab  
BY VAUGHN SANDERS

In Memory of  
Howard McClure  
BY ANN MCCLURE

In Memory of  
Dayton Heffelfinger  
BY CREDA HEFFELFINGER

In Memory of  
Cindy Hicks Little  
BY THE HICKS COUSINS

In Honor of  
Mary Dixon Baker  
BY PATTI BURNS TAYLOR

In Memory of  
Virginia "Ginny" Brewer  
BY PATTI BURNS TAYLOR

In Memory of Mimi Davis  
BY BRETT DAVIS

In Memory of Jane Stevenson  
BY BRETT DAVIS

In Memory of  
George, Francis, Bill Doris, &  
Brenda Baker  
BY MARILYN & BELLA

In Memory of Alice Malony  
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

In Memory of Betty Galloway  
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

Flowers may be taken following  
tonight's Service.





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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#### CHURCH STAFF

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Pastoral Assistant

Patrick Ritsch  
Director of Music

Candice Baize  
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson  
Bookkeeper