

Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2021 • 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.



Holy Family
Christina Saj



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This worship service is inspired by the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held on Christmas Eve for the last 103 years at King's College, Cambridge, England.

The Advent Wreath has accompanied us through the four weeks of the season of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. The four candles — kindled with our prayers for hope, peace, joy and love — greet us tonight as we gather to welcome the Light of Christ in the center of the perfect evergreen circle symbolizing the living eternity of God.

Welcome to all! A special welcome to guests and newcomers. Let us know of your presence by signing the red fellowship pad which is at the end of each pew. Please introduce yourself to a minister after the service. We request that for the safety of all present that masks be worn by everyone, even those fully vaccinated.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

As the music begins, let the time and the music help to center you for worship.

The Holly and the Ivy arr. Richard Price

Carol of the Bells arr. Richard Price

Brass Quintet

Greensleeves Richard Purvis

David Hufford, Organ

I Saw Three Ships arr. Canadian Brass

Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. Canadian Brass

Brass Quintet

Candlelight Carol John Rutter

Yuki Harding, Oboe

Festive Entry Richard Strauss

Brass and Organ

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have increased the joy of the nation as with joy at the harvest— For the yoke of their burden, and the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.

All: For to us a child has been born; to us a son has been given.

One: Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* CAROL 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Jacqueline Vercler, soloist

After the solo stanza, the congregation is invited to sing stanzas 2, 3, and 4.

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.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3 (selected verses)

CAROL*Before the Marvel of This Night*

Carl Schalk

Chancel Choir

Before the marvel of this night,
adoring, fold your wings and bow;
then tear the sky apart with light
and with your news the world endow.

Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace;
sing peace; sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song:
this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss;
sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.

Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
sing love; sing love; sing God is love;
sing love; sing God is love!

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–11

*** CAROL 106***Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG HERRAN

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

CAROL*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Stephen Paulus

Chancel Choir and Yuki Harding, Oboe

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.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.

**Advent Paraments
and Stoles**

were commissioned and made by quilter and artist, Beth Taylor of Schenectady, NY, for the pulpit, lectern, communion table, and stoles for our pastors.

Advent Paper-lace

Banners were designed by liturgical artist Ellen Phillips and were cut by members of First Pres.

We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1–7

CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER
The congregation will remain seated to sing.

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8–20

CAROL *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* John Rutter
Chancel Choir

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.

(Refrain)

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth
And He’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?” *(Refrain)*

“None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.”

Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o’er the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

“Where is the new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is He there at Bethlehem?”

“I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o’er Bethlehem.”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And He’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King’s cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.”

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–12

* CAROL 145

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1 (selected verses)

(The Christ Candle is lit, and a moment of silence is kept.)

One: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

All: And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

* CAROL 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

The First Nowell

arr. Mack Wilberg

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.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

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.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The ministers light the first candle in each pew. Each person will light the candle of the next worshiper. Please keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.

CAROL SING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

During the offering, take a minute to sign the friendship pads found in each pew. If you are visiting with us, please leave your contact information so that we can reach out to you! Newcomers and regulars alike can see who is sitting around them and greet each other by name. By signing in, you help us build stronger community connections at First Presbyterian. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l>

Our Christmas Eve Offering will be used to provide housing for Afghani refugee families.

Please remain seated for the Carol Sing.

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

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.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

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.

**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.**

*** BENEDICTION**

*Please extinguish your candle after the benediction and before leaving your pew.
Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts and know the blessing of
Emmanuel, God with us.*

*** CAROL 134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* Keith Chapman

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THIS HOLY NIGHT!

Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share fully in the life and activities of this congregation. A full description of church events can always be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

Worship leadership at 5:00 includes Callie Crawford, Cael Finnane, Ezra Gerety, and Will Wood; and the Reverends Hannah Lundberg, Mark Mares, Melissa Anne Rogers, and Jay Sanderford. **Musical leadership** includes Chancel Choir; Yuki Harding, Oboe; Alex Wilson, Trumpet; Jon Fontan, Trumpet; Denise Root-Pierce, Horn; Joe McInchak, Trombone; Martha Farmer, Bass Trombone; David Hufford, Organist; and Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts. **Ushers** are Len Rezmierski (Captain), Dick Carlisle, Megan Carlisle, Beth Gerwig, Jeannette Middleton, Luke Rogers, Florian Trouvain, and Angela Yang.

Worship leadership at 8:00 includes Aidan Majorprice, Chloe Majorprice, Hadley Feyen, and Harper Feyen; Beca Torres-Davenport; and the Reverends Megan Berry, Evans McGowan, and Jay Sanderford. **Musical leadership** includes Chancel Choir; Yuki Harding, Oboe; Alex Wilson, Trumpet; Jon Fontan, Trumpet; Denise Root-Pierce, Horn; Joe McInchak, Trombone; Martha Farmer, Bass Trombone; David Hufford, Organist; and Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts.

Ushers are Paul Smith (Captain), Downs Herold, Sandy Herold, Aidan Majorprice, Chloe Majorprice, Holly Major, Keith Molin, Carol Smith, Ali Westfall, Ava Westfall, and Ken Westfall.

Our Christmas Eve Offering will be used to provide housing for Afghani refugee families. Please give generously at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>.

Year-End Finance Information: Please support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2021 be closed on December 31. Make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2021 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year. A new authorization form, available on our website and in the Finance Office, must be filled out annually. **2022 Contribution Envelopes**, for those who requested them, are available outside the Finance Office December 17–26. Any envelopes not picked up will be mailed on December 27.

The church building will be closed Monday, December 27, and Monday, January 3.

Hark! Assistive Listening Devices are available! Ask your usher to sign out a device for use during service and to return the device.

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Holy Family by Christina Saj is used with permission of the artist. To see more of her work, please visit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic," our current art exhibit in the Social Hall. Ms. Saj's artwork is for sale for \$225 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.



Upcoming Worship Services *Please join us!*

Christmas Eve Worship
Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas Family Worship
December 26, 9:30 a.m.
(This is the only service on December 26.)

Epiphany Sunday
January 2, 9:30 a.m.
(This is the only service on January 2.)



Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist
Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister
Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse
David Hufford
Organist
Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister
Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families
Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse
Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor
Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister

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Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant
Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant
Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator
Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist
Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator
Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant
Anna Miller
Finance Manager
Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator
Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson
Office Manager