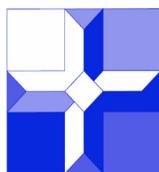


SERVICE OF COMMUNION

December 24, 2021 • 11:00 p.m.



Starry, Starry Night
John Stuart



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

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

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Hearing-assistance devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

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.

Cover art is *Starry, Starry Night* by John Stuart, a Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee.

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

Rev. Berry

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 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Berry

Holy God—in the darkest time of the year

we gather to hear again an ancient story—

to listen for tidings of comfort and joy in the night air,

to make our way through the cold to a place of birth.

In a time of anxiety and anguish,

we gather in this beloved Light to be healed of fear and anger,

to practice believing your promise of peace and goodwill on earth.

In the quiet splendor of this night,

whisper to us between all the familiar words and cadences.

And when we have received these treasures of song and story,

send us home by a different way—

to plant hope even in the chill earth,

to kindle light even in the darkest time,

to create peace even where we can scarcely imagine it—

**for we pray in the name of the One
whose birth brings us back to life. Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 3 (selected verses)

Rev. Lundberg

CAROL *Before the Marvel of This Night*
Chancel Choir

Carl Schalk

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 READING Isaiah 9:2–7

Rev. Lundberg

* **CAROL 144** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

THIRD READING Luke 2:1–20

Rev. Mares

CAROL *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

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)*

**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.

“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.”

FOURTH READING

John 1 (selected verses)

Rev. Mares

(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.

MEDITATION

Coming Home

Rev. McGowan

* CAROL 145

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEVES

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Rogers and Rev. Sanderford

Offertory

The First Nowell

arr. Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir

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)*

**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/2Rliq2l>

**Our Christmas Eve
Offering** will be used
to provide housing for
Afghani refugee families.
Please give generously!

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*)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Rogers and Rev. Sanderford

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

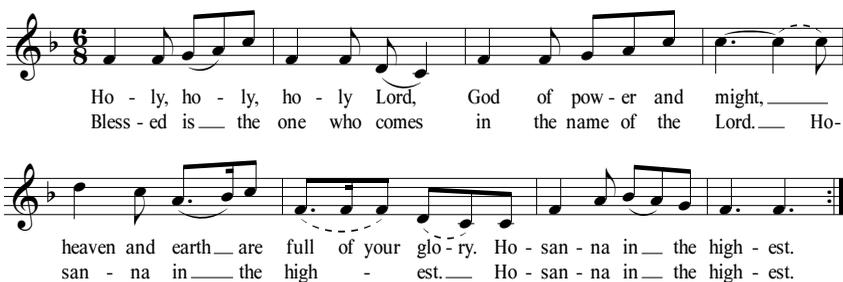
All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the center cup on each wafer tray.

Communion Music

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.

During his ministry,
Jesus shared meals as
a sign of community
and acceptance. As we
gather for communion,
know that you are
welcome in this
community and
accepted at Christ's
table.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Prayer After Communion

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.

**Please remain
seated for the Carol
Sing.**

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!"**

**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**

Rev. McGowan

*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.*

* **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 includes the Reverends Melissa Anne Rogers, Jay Sanderford, Evans McGowan, Megan Berry, Hannah Lundberg, and Mark Mares.

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), Bruce Clyde, Gail Grady, Grace Krapohl, Greta Krapohl, Holly Major, Alena Song, Nick Song, and Bruce Thompson.

Music copyright: All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720542. All rights reserved.

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! We have units with ear speakers (one ear) or you can use your personal headphone or earbuds. We also have some units paired with an over-the-neck “Loop” for listeners with telecoil-equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants. Ask your usher to sign out a device for use during service and to return the device.



Upcoming Worship Services *Please join us!*

First Sunday of Christmas Family Worship
December 26, 9:30 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday
January 2, 9:30 a.m.

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

Administrative Staff

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