



Christmas Eve

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24., 2023

1998

Appendix 1

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

— Luke 2:1-7 —

Welcome to Worship!

We are glad that you are here to share the joy of this holy night.

Our prayer is that you sense the presence of the One whose birth we celebrate, and you leave inspired to shine the light of Christ's love in the world.

Friendship Pad

Please let us know of your presence by signing the Friendship Pad or by using a mobile device to scan the QR code below.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in worship; however, if you need childcare, it is available during the 5:00 and 8:00 pm services for children five and younger on Level 1.

Offering

For decades, First's Christmas Eve offering has helped individuals and families in need in our community. This year we continue this tradition of supporting our mission partner Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian boarder ministry located in the sister cities of Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Douglas, Arizona. Join us in building relationships and understanding across borders as a signpost of God's great welcome to each and everyone of us.

Join Us on Sundays

We hope you will join us on Sunday, December 31, as we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas in one service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

The church building will be closed Monday, December 25 through Wednesday, December 27, and Monday, January 1.

Beginning January 7, 2024

8:30 a.m. Communion Service	10:45 a.m. Lemon Chapel Singers (K-8th)
9:30 a.m. Worship	11:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
9:30 a.m. Children & Youth	11:15 a.m. Worship
Faith Formation	6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Life Together

Get involved in small groups, mission activities, music programs, and children and youth events outside of Sunday morning. We'd love to share more with you about the possibilities. Please contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor, at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or 734-662-4466.

To learn more about First Pres, visit us online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.



ONLINE
FRIENDSHIP PAD

Service of Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
5:00 & 8:00 P.M.

Upon entering the sanctuary let us be reverent in silence, fervent in prayer, hearty in praise, and expectant of God's presence. Please silence all electronic devices prior to the worship service.

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.
* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

We Three Kings
Gloucestershire Wassail
I Saw Three Ships
Coventry Carol
Brass Quintet

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol
David Hufford, organ

Angels We Have Heard on High
Silent Night
Ding! Dong! Merrily on High
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Brass Quintet

arr. Richard Price

Gerald Near

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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

* CAROL 140

Once in Royal David's City
Jacqueline Vercler, soloist
After the solo stanza, the congregation is invited to sing stanzas 2, 3, and 4.

IRBY

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 1:1-5

ANTHEM

Sir Christèmas
Chancel Choir

William Mathias

Nowell. Who is there that singeth so,
Nowell. I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less,
Come near.
Nowell. Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
Tidings I you bring,
A maid borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing.
Nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid,
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayed;
Nowell. Buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully. Nowell!

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–11

* CAROL 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG HERRAN

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

CAROL 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

CAROL 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–20

* CAROL 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–12

Chancel Choir; Allison Gaines, soprano, and trumpet

The shepherds sing, and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too;
a flock it feeds of thoughts, and words and deeds.
The pasture is thy word;
The streams, thy grace enriching all, all the place.
Shepherds and flock shall sing,
and all my powers out-sing the daylight hours.
Then we will sing, and shine on our own day,
And one another pay.
His beams shall cheer my breast,
And both so twine,
till even his beams sing,
and my music shine.

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1 (selected verses)

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

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
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

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.
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

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!"**

**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!"**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**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



WORSHIP LEADERS - 5:00 & 8:00 PM
Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, Lead Pastor
Nathaniel Fryer, Resident Minister
Rev. Tommy Langejans, Resident Minister
Rev. Hannah Lundberg, Transitional Pastor for Resident Ministry
Rev. Mark Mares, Associate Pastor
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

5:00 PM	8:00 PM
Ethan Crawford	Levi Gehrke
Chloe Majorprice	Martin Gehrke
Madeline Montgomery	Carly Polikoff
Zane Yntema	Alisa Robles-Breneman

MUSICIANS
Chancel Choir
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts
David Hufford, organ
Catherine Li, Gordon Ward, trumpet
Carrie Banfield-Taplin, horn
Kenneth Kroesche, trombone
Nathan Shook, tuba
Cary Kocher, timpani

USHERS	
5:00 PM	8:00 PM
Omer Bellfi	Nancy Fox
Keith Molin	Beth Gerwig
Karla Olson -Bellfi	Keith Molin
Len Rezmierski	Len Rezmierski
Virginia Rezmierski	Joe Schmidt
Joe Schmidt	Bruce Thomson
Pat Tamblyn	
Angela Yang	

Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
11:00 P.M.

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

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC arr. Richard Price

We Three Kings
Gloucestershire Wassail
I Saw Three Ships
Coventry Carol
Brass Quintet

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol Gerald Near
David Hufford, organ

Angels We Have Heard on High
Silent Night
Ding! Dong! Merrily on High
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Brass Quintet

* CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

* CAROL 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**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 1:1-5	
ANTHEM	<i>Sir Christèmas</i> Chancel Choir	William Mathias

Nowell. Who is there that singeth so,
Nowell. I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less,
Come near.
Nowell. Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
Tidings I you bring,
A maid borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing.
Nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid,
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayed;
Nowell. Buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully. Nowell!

SECOND READING	Isaiah 9:2–7	
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* CAROL 113	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
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THIRD READING	Luke 2:1–20	Mark Mares
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ANTHEM	<i>The Shepherd's Sing</i> Chancel Choir; Allison Gaines, soprano, and Catherine Li, trumpet	Bob Chilcott
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The shepherds sing, and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too;
a flock it feeds of thoughts, and words and deeds.

The pasture is thy word;
The streams, thy grace enriching all, all the place.
Shepherds and flock shall sing,
and all my powers out-sing the daylight hours.
Then we will sing, and shine on our own day,
And one another pay.
His beams shall cheer my breast,
And both so twine, till even his beams sing, and my music shine.

FOURTH READING John 1 (selected verses)
The Christ Candle is lit, and a moment of silence is kept.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.
And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

MEDITATION

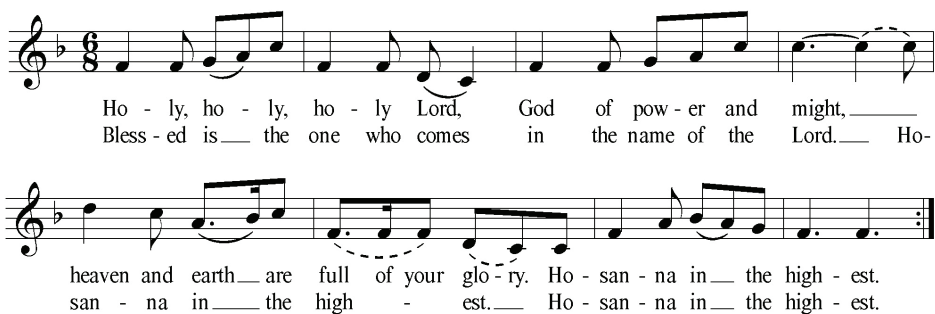
* CAROL 145 *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEVES

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory	<i>The First Nowell</i>	Mack Wilberg
<p>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. Nowell, born is the King of Israel.</p> <p>They looked up and saw a star shining the East beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, born is the King of Israel.</p> <p>Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, born is the King of Israel.</p>		

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer
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.



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 are welcome to receive Communion. All cups contain grape juice. Most stations have wafers that are gluten free but contain soy and sesame. If you need an option that contains gluten but no other allergens, come to the center station.

Communion Music

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.

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 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

David Prentice-Hyers

*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



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Nathaniel Fryer, Resident Minister

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Chancel Choir

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

David Hufford, organ

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Carrie Banfield-Taplin, horn

Kenneth Kroesche, trombone

Nathan Shook, tuba

Cary Kocher, timpani

USHERS

Clem Gill

Grace Krapohl

Greta Krapohl

Aiden Majorprice

Chloe Majorprice

Holly Majorprice

Keith Molin

Joe Schmidt

Bruce Thomson

