

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come, hear the Christmas news:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, worship the Christmas child.

Jesus Christ is born!

Hymn 147

"The First Nowell" (verses 1-4)

1 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.

2 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)

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.***

***We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.***

***We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.***

***Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: John 1:10-18

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.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Psalter: Psalm 147 (as set in *Glory to God* 657)

Refrain: Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

- 1 God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar. (**Refrain**)
- 2 Such is God's great power and wisdom, none can calculate or tell;
keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell. (**Refrain**)
- 3 God with clouds the sky has curtained, thus ensuring rain shall fall;
earth, responding, grows to order food for creatures great and small. (**Refrain**)
- 4 God's discernment never favors strength or speed to lift or move;
God delights in those who worship, trusting in God's steadfast love. (**Refrain**)

A Time with Children

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon: "Over Our Heads, But On the Ground"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!
- 2 By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one, all that sees the moon’s soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!
- 3 O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!
- 4 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word. Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!
- 5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!
- 6 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 150

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

- 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

4 Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Words from the public domain hymns are from *Glory to God*. Used by permission.

657 Text and Music © 1993 WGRG, The Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721445. All rights reserved.

The WORSHIPcast Streaming and Retransmitting License provided by Christian Copyright Solutions.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist	Meg Hatch
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

Church Family Announcements

Special Announcement: We have returned to online-only worship

At the special Session meeting on December 13, our elders voted unanimously to **return to online-only worship**. Sadly, the covid-19 virus is raging through our region and we are not willing to put our members and friends at risk. We are disappointed that the public health situation has forced us to make this decision. However, we are also happy to have the equipment and experience to lead worship services on our YouTube channel.

Following today's worship service, we will have a Virtual Coffee Hour online on our Zoom account. It is a great way to sign on for a few minutes, wish a "Happy New Year" to members of our church family, and be reminded that you are part of a congregation that cares about you.

The **church office** remains open during regular hours. All visitors are required to wear masks. To ensure our availability, **it may be a good idea to call ahead** and set an appointment if you plan to stop by. Sometimes the outer door may be locked - especially if there is a blizzard.

Our plan is to continue online-only worship **through the month of January**. We will notify you when the situation changes.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Requests may be submitted through a link on our webpage.

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306 www.fpccs.org