



First Presbyterian Church
Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

**All who heard him
were amazed...**

Luke 2:47, NRSV

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Reverie"

Claude Debussy

Call to Worship

I will proclaim the gracious deeds of God;
the steadfast love of the Lord is great.

Isaiah 63:7

Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,
the glory of God's people and a light to all.

Luke 2:30-32

* Hymn 132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* 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

* Response (refrain to Hymn 136)

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (OT, p. 246)

Hymn 110 "Love Has Come"
Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17 (NT, p. 201)

Hymn 112 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52 (NT, p. 59)
Sermon: "After the Birth, It's Time to Grow Up"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 156 "Sing of God Made Manifest"

* Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.***

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Dedication of the Christmas Joy Offering

Offering

Offertory

"Valse Op. 64 No. 1"

Frédéric Chopin

Prayers of the People and 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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude "Glorias" arr. by Nathaniel Worrell

If you are leaving before the music ends, please do so quietly.

- * All who are able shall stand.

The flowers *this morning have been given to the Glory of God*

- *in loving memory of Johanna Conklin by her husband, John, and*
- *in loving memory of Johanna Conklin by Sandra Bailey.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell
Liturgist	Dick Cochrane

**First Presbyterian Church
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Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? **Join us in person at 10:00 am.** (Reservations are no longer necessary.)
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Our Session requires masks for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We believe in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccinations and urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

Thank you for your strong financial support for 2021! The church financial books will close on December 31. For proper accounting of your contribution, please send any 2021 offerings to the church prior to that date.

Our sanctuary is open for prayer whenever the building is open.

Office hours for the holidays: The church office will reopen on Tuesday, December 28. We will be closed Friday, December 31, noon, until the morning of Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

There will be no “Way” Education classes or Choir Rehearsals this week. Classes and rehearsals will resume next Wednesday, January 5.

It’s time for Annual Reports! Will all committee chairs, staff, and board treasurers please submit a brief report of your 2021 activities (electronically, preferably) to the church office (office@fpccs.org) by January 19, 2022.

Boxes of offering envelopes have been prepared and are on a table in the hall. If one was not prepared for you, and you would like one, please notify the church office..

Meetings this week

Sunday, December 26	First Sunday after Christmas Day 10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 29	10:30 a.m. Prayer and Share	Room 209
Thursday, December 30	7 p.m. AlAnon 7 p.m. Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall Sanctuary
Friday, December 31	12 noon Church Office Closes	
Saturday, January 1, 2022	New Year’s Day!	
Sunday, January 2	Second Sunday after Christmas 10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church’s ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, **scan here.**

