



First Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve for All God's Children

December 24, 2022

4:00 p.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome

Call to Worship

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people:

For to you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Light has shined on those who lived in a land of deep darkness.

* Hymn 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

* Prayer of Adoration

**Holy God, you have sent your Son into the world.
O God, fill us with love and wonder,
that with shepherds and wise men,
we may gather to adore the holy child, the promised King,
and to worship him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* Passing the Peace

The angels sing about peace on Christmas Eve:
"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among all."
The peace of the Lord be with all of you.
And also with you!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Response (to Hymn 133)

**O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

SEEING AND HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Introduction

The Angel speaks to Mary

The Angel speaks to Joseph

Carol: 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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Traveling to Bethlehem

Carol: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

The Shepherds are visited

The Angels appear

Carol: 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!

The Shepherds find the baby Jesus

Carol: The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, 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.**

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.**

The Wise Men arrive

* Carol: "Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

Offering Our Gifts to the Christ Child
Offertory "Cradle Song"

arr. Robert Lau

Prayer of Thanks

* Candlelighting Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

*Please be careful in lighting candles, assisting children as needed.
For safety, hold lit candles upright. Unlit candles are tipped toward flame.*



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.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Joy to the World"

arr. Michael Helman

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Advent Candlelighters	The Farrell Family

We welcome our visitors and are glad you are here!

We would appreciate knowing that you are here, and invite you to sign a guest card in the pews and place it in the offering plate.

Interested in discovering more about our church? Visit our website at www.fpccs.org.

On Sunday, December 25 we will worship at **10:00 a.m.**

2023 offering envelopes for adults are available in the hall outside the sanctuary.

As the year concludes, we want you to know of our gratitude for your support for our church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your consistent support and generosity. It helps you bring the Gospel alive in our faith community.