

*Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church  
Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 2019*

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**THE GATHERING**

PRELUDE (9:00 p.m.)      *“There’s a Song in the Air”*      Michael R. Keller  
Bell Choir

PRELUDE (11:00 p.m.)      *“In Dulci Jubilo”*      J.S. Bach  
Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign the red “friendship pads” found at the end of each pew by the center aisle. Note the names of those worshipping around you as you pass the pad back. We encourage you to greet each other after the service.)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

L: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said, “for to you a savior is born.” “Peace on earth,” the choir sang, “for God reigns in the highest.” “Follow me,” the star beckoned, “For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

L: As we light the Christ candle,

**P: we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

L: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

**P: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

SUNG RESPONSE      *(tune Hymn #115 Away in a Manger)*

**We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim  
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night  
as God comes among us, as Christ the true light.**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

CAROL #133\*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)\*

**The heavenly host fills the skies; the shepherds rush to behold the babe. But we stand still, for these glad tidings have lost all sense of urgency. The angel chorus rejoices with alleluias, but we hear words as nothing new. You have given us your Son. Now give us the gift of faith, that we might receive the Christ child into our hearts, our lives, our homes, our world, and live as those who walk in his light. Embolden us to tell your story and send us out, glorifying and praising God— for to us is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord! Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS\*

CAROL #113 (Hymnal)\* *“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS\*

**9:00 P.M. - PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

CAROL #115

*“Away in a Manger”*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Joan Fraser  
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM

*“He Is Born”*

**Arnold B. Sherman**  
Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

MEDITATION

*“A Christmas Story”*

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

**11:00 P.M. - PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

CAROL #115

*“Away in a Manger”*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM

*“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”*

arr. John Jacob Niles  
Emily Ellsworth

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

MEDITATION

“In those Days...”

Rev. Marie Branigan

### THE RESPONSE

CAROL #127

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Noel en Musette*

Louis Claude D’aquin  
Organ

Hymn #606 (Hymnal)\*

*“Doxology”*

Prayer of Dedication\*

CAROL #134\*

*“Joy to the World”*

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God: All the ends of the earth have seen your saving power, O Lord. From the ruined cities to the highest mountains, we sing your praise: How beautiful is the messenger of your peace, who brings salvation!*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Jesus was with you in the beginning; through him all things came to be. Now he has come to live among us—your Word made flesh—and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. As you have spoken to us through the prophets and apostles, continue to speak to us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Sustain us by your powerful Word, until we worship you in glory even as we pray:*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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

*Communion this evening will be by Intinction. Please allow the choirs to receive communion before coming forward. Those seated near the outside aisles should move toward the back of the Sanctuary then up the center aisle. Those seated convenient to the center aisle will follow the side aisle group up the center aisle starting with those in the back. (Ushers will cue each section and serve those who choose to remain seated).*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of shepherds and sheep, we give you thanks that you have gathered us here, revealed to us your glory, and fed us with your mercy. Now send us out with good news for all—for us a child is born: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

**Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING CAROL #122\*     *“Silent Night, Holy Night!”*

*All join in singing “Silent Night.” As the lights are turned down, the candles are lit signifying the birth of the Light of the World, our Savior Jesus Christ. Please pass the light by placing your unlit candle in the upright flame of the candle held by the person next to you. We ask that as we pass the light care is taken to avoid dripping wax.*

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE\*

Noel: *“Une Vierge Pucelle”*  
*(A Virgin Pure)*

Nicolas Lebgue  
Organ

(Please return your candle to the box in the Narthex as you leave.)

**ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND\***

Ushering for the **9:00 p.m.** service is Joan Fraser, Mary Lou Kerr, Dave & Fran Stewart and Vicki Waciega *and* for the **11:00 p.m.** service are Stan Dickerson, KY Huang and Art and Gloria-Jean Ryba.

Communion Servers for the **9:00 p.m.** service, George & Margie Conley and Ken and Anne Gordon *and* for the **11:00 p.m.** service are Sue Britton, Val Cier, Mark Hughes and Peter Miller. Thanks to Sue Britton for preparing the communion. **Gluten free bread** is available in a separate container at each communion station.

**The Flowers** in the chancel tonight are the beautiful Christmas poinsettias. They have been given to the Glory of God, in memory, in honor or as a gift of gratitude by many wonderful people. (Copies of the list are in the Narthex). **Please note:** Poinsettias may be picked up tonight after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service or Friday, December 27 by contacting Ruth Jost at (609)235-9078. Any plants remaining after December 27 will be distributed as gift by the Deacons.

*We pray God's warmest blessings upon you for a joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. Thank you to all those whose gifts, creativity and labor created the beautiful Christmas decorations and outdoor Crèche. We are grateful to God for bringing us all together on this special night, and grateful to you for sharing in this faithful celebration of the Good News. We are a church family, and we invite you to join us all yearlong!*

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*Join us Sunday, December 29, 2019 for Worship*

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
No Sunday School and No Youth Group

Church Office Schedule

**Church Office Closed:** 12/24 through 1/2/2020

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.