



CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 & 8:00 pm

December 24, 2017

*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,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Our Mission Statement

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God's grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

We're glad you're here with us this holy evening. We fondly refer to this community of Christ-followers as "First Pres," and you being here is one of God's blessings for our fellowship. If you wonder what we're up to at First Pres, it's actually pretty simple. In fact, we use a short phrase to remind ourselves of our shared purpose: "Above all, love." Drawn from a New Testament text (1 Peter 4:8-11), those brief words challenge us to focus everything we do on loving God and loving every single person we encounter. So every day we're learning how to do just that, as God's Spirit keeps working in our lives.

By the way, we can't take credit for this idea. It goes as far back as Jesus. He was once asked to sum up what it looks like to really be alive; what we should aim for in our lives if we want to live as fully as we can. His answer? Love God with every fiber of your being, and love the people around you. So whether we meet you in worship, or in the hallway, or in one of our many activities—or just run into you around town—we hope that you will feel the deep love of God welcoming and embracing you. We really are glad that you're here.

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones. The asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Behold I bring you good news of a great joy;
for to you is born in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**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.**

**We light this candle, as a reminder of the ever present light of Christ,
the hope of this world.**

*Hymn #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee; born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (refrain)

*Prayer of Adoration

**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.**

Welcome

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 (Old Testament, p. 631)

Anthem While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
arr. Craig Courtney

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-14 (New Testament, p. 58)

Anthem Candlelight Carol
John Rutter

Prayers of the People

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.**

Offertory O Holy Night
arr. John Rutter

*Hymn #113 Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria

Scripture Reading John 1:1-14 (New Testament, p. 91)

Sermon "What the World Needs NOW: Love" Dr. Greg Stovell

*Hymn #134 Joy to the World
Antioch

*The Light of Christ

*Congregational Response

Silent Night, Holy Night

The Chancel Choir will sing first verse in German

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! 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.

Blessing

Organ Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
arr. Richard Elliott

Leading us in worship

Greg Stovell, Pastor

Steve Clark, Associate Pastor

Sándor Kádár, Director of Music

Marcia Sommers, Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Monica Vera, Soprano

Adriana Park, Violin

WORSHIP NOTES

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

The text of this anthem may be found in Glory to God, #117.

Candlelight Carol

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn.
'Gloria in excelsis Deo', angels are singing; the Christ Child is born.
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead Incarnate and hope of salvation; a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Truly He taught us to love one another; his law is love, and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we; his power and glory evermore proclaim!

The Candles used by the pastors this evening to pass the light to the congregation during "Silent Night" come from the town of Bethlehem in the West Bank. They were first lit at the Church of the Nativity, where tradition says Jesus was born, and brought home by Steve and Jennie Clark from a trip to the Holy Land many years ago.

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Serving this evening as ushers are the Soulas family and Rodney Gruin at 6:00 p.m. and Dennis Westhafer, Bob Bird and Craig Single at 8:00 p.m. Bob Bird is running sound and video production at 6:00 p.m. and Howard Lebold at 8:00 p.m.

In Memoriam - Dawson Turner, member of First Presbyterian Church from February 26, 1996 to December 15, 2017; and Loretta A. DeStefano, member of First Presbyterian Church from September 28, 1973 to December 15, 2017. Our sympathy and prayers are with Cindy Haggart and Kristin Roosevelt and families in the death of Cindy's husband and Kristin's stepfather; and with Richard DeStefano and Cara Cavanaugh and families in the death of Richard's wife and Cara's mother.

2018 Offering Envelopes - If you requested envelopes, you may pick them up in the long red hallway. If you forgot to request them, please email ghuebner@firstpreswc.com to let her know.

Important Charitable Deduction Information - Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) all gifts to the Church on or by Sunday, December 31 in order to be included on your 2017 Statement of Contributions. Deliver to Dory Speer in the business office as many other staff members are out of the office the week after Christmas through the New Year. Delivering a financial gift to someone other than Dory, may result in a contribution attributable to 2018 instead of 2017. Please note: Our office closes at noon on Friday, December 29.



TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS JANUARY

Share God's Love

WITH LOCAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

SERVE
COFFEE OR
WELCOME
GUESTS ONE
SUNDAY

HOST A DINNER OR
GAME NIGHT @
SAFE HARBOR

TAKE
COMMUNION
TO ELDERLY
CHURCH
MEMBERS

CARE FOR
KIDS AT THE
ARC
PRESCHOOL

MLK DAY
CLEANING EVENT @
FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

START A
TOOTHBRUSH
COLLECTION FOR
ACT IN FAITH

TO SIGN UP AND SEE MORE
OPPORTUNITIES,
VISIT
WWW.FIRSTPRESWC.COM