



CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 pm

December 24, 2019

*Inspiring Word,
move over the chaos within me,
calling forth form and order,
that I may know you in my shaping,
and in the shaping,
surrender my life to yours.*

*Illuminating Word,
pierce the darkness within me,
calling forth insight and understanding,
that I may know you in my seeing,
and in seeing,
follow the way of your kingdom.*

*Incarnate Word,
indwell the life within me,
calling forth passion and purpose,
that I may know you in my living,
and in living,
embody you for the world.*

written by Pat Bennett, Christian Aid, 2009

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.

Searching? So are we.

Welcome to First Presbyterian. We are glad you're here.

Whether church is a familiar place to you or not,
we hope you feel something sacred in this place.

At First Pres, we don't think we have all the answers.
Instead, we believe that faith involves asking questions.

We trust that there is a light that no darkness can overcome,
and that our task as followers of Christ
is to help shine that light in the world
through caring for our neighbors, each other,
and those whom the world discounts or forgets.

We are grateful for the vast diversity of God's creation
and for the way that every human is created in the divine image.

We believe that the Bible is the story of imperfect people
seeking to follow God in a complex world,
and learning, little by little,
to recognize Christ's presence in our lives.

Thank you for sharing this holy time with us.
Merry Christmas.

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.

Prelude

Greensleeves
arr. Chip Davis
Cantique de Noel
arr. Chip Davis
Gesu Bambino
Pietro A. Yon

**Call to Worship*

On this holiest of nights,
**we gather, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

On this most silent night,
**we gather, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

On this nights of carols and candlelight,
**we gather, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.**

Today we light the Christ Candle
remembering the light that shines in the darkness.
Let us worship God.

**Hymn #133*

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Adeste Fideles

**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.**

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost;
born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven;
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Welcome

Scripture Reading	Luke 2:1-20	(New Testament, p. 58)
Offertory		Meditation from <i>Thais</i> Jules Massenet
*Hymn #134		Joy to the World Antioch
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 9:2-6	(Old Testament, p. 638)
Sermon	“Darkness and Light”	Dr. Greg Stovell

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We celebrate the Sacrament with the ancient method of intinction. When guided by ushers, you may come forward and receive a piece of bread, dip the bread in the offered cup, then return to your pew by the side aisles. The Communion bread is nut-free, gluten-free, dairy-free, wheat free and egg-free. If you have any health concerns about the bread, please ask one of the servers and they can provide an alternative.

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.**

The Light of Christ

*Congregational Response

Silent Night, Holy Night

**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

Postlude

*Joyful, Joyful
Ludwig van Beethoven*

Leading us in worship are Greg Stovell, Pastor; Caroline Cupp, Associate Pastor; Eric Hankins, Worship Leader; Brooke Gamble, piano; Julie Claeys, piano; Tracy Burke, flute; Nolan Prochnau, viola; Sam Prochnau, piano.

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Youth Spaghetti Supper - Mark your calendars for January 26! The Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner will be happening once again! This fundraiser goes toward youth retreats, mission trips, and events. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Children (4-8). Children 3 and under are FREE (as are youth assisting as servers). We will have two seatings: 4:30 and 6:30. Come join us for an evening full of fun! There will be live music during both seatings. Tickets will be sold in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, January 5!

Thank you - We are deeply grateful to all of you who participated in the Giving Tree, Migrant Ministry, mission partner Christmas parties, poinsettia deliveries, Presbyterian Women projects, and special offerings. Your generosity helped to bring joy to hundreds of children and families during this season, and supported social service agencies locally, regionally and across the country. Thank you for all that you did to make this possible.

New Family Newsletter - We know that family life is busy. Sometimes you can't get to church and sometimes the best thing is to stay home and rest. As parents and caretakers, there are still plenty of things you can do at home to help your children explore and develop faith. Faith-ing Forward is a newsletter we send out about once a month with ideas and resources for your family to use to build faith at home, together, on your own time. Sign up at <https://www.firstpreswc.com/kids-and-families>.

Save the Date - Weekend with the Arts - First Pres will be hosting our 14th Annual "Weekend With the Arts." Live jazz music, art show, and a concert fill our weekend. Mark your calendars for March 6 - 8, 2020.

Important Charitable Deduction Information - Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) all gifts to the church on or by Tuesday, December 31 in order to be included on your 2019 Statement of Contributions. Deliver to Jeff Somers 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 Jeff may result in a contribution attributable to 2020 instead of 2019. Please note: Our office closes at noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES

TUESDAY 12/24 - Christmas Eve - Church office closes at Noon

3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service with Communion	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Contemporary Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
10:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion	Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 12/25 - Christmas Day - Church office closed

FRIDAY 12/27

11:00 am	Sweet Dreams	Quilting Room
----------	--------------	---------------

SUNDAY - 12/29 - No children's programs

9:00 am	Worship in Sanctuary	
---------	----------------------	--

MONDAY - 12/30 - Bulletin Deadline at Noon

TUESDAY - 12/31 - Office closes at Noon

WEDNESDAY - 1/1 - Church Office closed

THURSDAY - 1/2

9:30 am	Coffee, Kids and Chaos	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Chess Club	Social Hall
6:40 pm	JuBellation Ringers	Room 208
7:00 pm	Men's Study Group	Room 209
7:00 pm	Youth Committee Meeting	Room 216
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

FRIDAY - 1/3

11:00 am	Sweet Dreams	Quilting Room
----------	--------------	---------------

SUNDAY - 1/5 - Communion at all services

8:00 am	Worship	Chapel
9:00 am	Worship in Sanctuary/(Nursery (to age 2)	
9:00 am	Confirmation Class	Room 216
10:00 am	Family Fellowship	Herron Lounge
10:42 am	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
11:10 am	Kids Connect	Chapel

Sunday, December 29, there will be one service at 9:00 a.m. This is a chance for the “whole family” to be together in worship as we close out 2019. There will be no chapel, nursery care, Sunday School or 10:42 service.

Thanks For Celebrating With Us

If you want to know more about...

**Sunday Services
Bible Studies
Music Ministry
Small Groups
Student Ministries
Family Programming
Service Opportunities
Etc.**

Check out firstpreswc.com

Have A Merry Christmas!

