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## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2019 3:00 pm

*Holy God of Love,  
There is light in our lives  
because of your amazing love.  
A love so great and so real,  
that you became one of us.  
May we trust in the power of this love.  
And may we share its light with a world  
where too many live in darkness. 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.

## **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

Christmas Carol Medley

Call to Worship

On this holy night,  
**we come together, sharing the wonder of the shepherds  
on that first Christmas night.**

On this silent night,  
**we come together, hoping and dreaming, just like Mary and Joseph.**

On this night of singing and candlelight,  
**we come together, our joyful songs echoing the joyful songs of the angels.**

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 the Day

**Glory to you Almighty God,  
because you sent your son, Jesus, so that we can have new life.**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
because you came to live with us and show us how to be your people.**

**Glory to you, Holy Spirit,  
Because you guide our lives.**

**Glory to you, Almighty God,  
and to your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Welcome

Offertory

Do You Hear What I Hear?  
*Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne*

\*Response

*Gloria*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## Children's Message

\*Hymn #134

Joy to the World  
Antioch

*During this hymn, children are invited to rejoin their families or to gather in the Chapel for a short lesson during the sermon.*

*They will return to their families during the hymn after the sermon.*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-6

(Old Testament, p. 638)

Sermon

“Darkness and Light”

Dr. Greg Stovell

\*Hymn #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Mendelssohn

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.*

Communion Music

Gesù Bambino  
Pietro Yon

\*The Light of Christ

\*Hymn #122

Silent Night  
Stille Nacht

**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

# FIRST PRES MATTERS

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**Leading us in worship** are Greg Stovell, Pastor; Sándor Kádár, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Children's Choir Director; Adriana Park, Violin; Sara Pantazes, Christian Education Director.

**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.



# Coming Soon!

In the new year, First Pres will be exploring the theme of homelessness.

## Plans Include:

- **All church book study** of *Welcome Homeless* by Alan Graham, beginning **January 5**
- **Weekly podcast** (with community and congregation members) to shed light on different ways of understanding homelessness
- **Children's series** on understanding poverty beginning January 19
- Continue to build connections with **ministry partners** who serve the homeless
- **What else?** We don't know yet, but we are expecting the Holy Spirit to guide us in being Jesus' hands and feet in our community

"...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - **Matthew 25:40**

To follow along and/or participate, go to **[firstpreswc.com/m25](http://firstpreswc.com/m25)**.

# ***THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES***

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## **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
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## **SUNDAY - 12/29 - No children's programs**

9:00 am	Worship in Sanctuary
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## **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
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## **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.

A decorative pine branch with vibrant red berries is positioned diagonally on the right side of the image, extending from the top right towards the bottom right. The pine needles are dark green and sharp, while the berries are round and bright red.

**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](http://firstpreswc.com)**

**Have A Merry Christmas!**