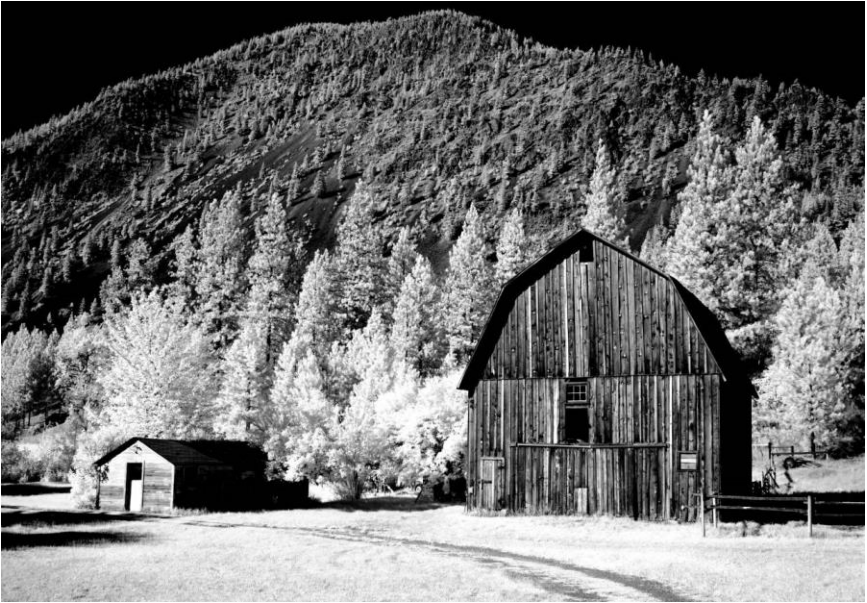


Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

5:00 p.m. Worship



Landscape in Montana. Free Black and White Photos. ©2023

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

-- *Luke 2:20*

First Presbyterian Church

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COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, January 5^h.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP†

Lectors: Dorothy Garcia
Zachary Garcia

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Carols

William Zeitler

INVITATION to ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

INTROIT

*The Only Son from Heaven*¹

J. S. Bach

The only Son from heaven, Foretold by ancient seers, By God in heaven given,
In human form appears. No sphere his light confining, No star so brightly
shining As he, our Morning Star.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

(Light first candle.)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

✘ **On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

(Light second candle.)

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know,
by the paths they have not known I will guide them.

✘ **I will turn the darkness before them into light,
The rough places into level ground.**

(Light third candle.)

The LORD says to his servant,

✘ **I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**

(Light fourth candle.)

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

*** Stand if you are able ✘ The congregation will read.**

¹ Music: Johann Sebastian Bach; arr. Hal H. Hopson. Text: Elizabeth Cruciger; trans. Arthur T. Russell, alt. ©1991 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

The LORD says,

✘ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly.

***HYMN 89² For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits**

Refrain: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (*Refrain*)

Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. (*Refrain*)

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
and in your advent, draw us all to you,
our hope reborn in dying and in rising. (*Refrain*)

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;
we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;
open to us the pathway of your peace. (*Refrain*)

Come, let us bow before the God who made us;
let every heart be opened to the Lord,
for we are all the people of God's hand. (*Refrain*)

Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,
Creator of the mountains and the seas,
Lord of the stars, and present to us now. (*Refrain*)

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2-6

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is

² Text & Music: Marty Haugen. ©1982, 2005 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ANTHEM *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem has sprung, Of Jesse's lineage coming, By faithful prophets sung. It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind, With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright She bore for us a Savior, When half spent was the night.

***CAROL SING**

(We invite you to stand as you are able. You may always remain seated.)

HYMN 132 v.1&2 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

HYMN 133 v.1&3 *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!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

HYMN 123 v.1,2,5 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King":

the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For the darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

✘ **but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

✘ **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

TIME with the CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be

registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*³

Austrian Carol

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping Holy star its vigil keeping Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes let sleep surround you sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN 118

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind,
to you and humankind.

³ Text: Marilyn Keith & Alan Bergman ©1958, 1960 Walton Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

**“To you, in David’s town this day,
is born of David’s line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign:**

**“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid,
and in a manger laid.”**

**Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song,
addressed their joyful song:**

**“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease,
begin and never cease!”**

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ANTHEM

When Christ Was Born⁴

Jeffrey Rickard

When Christ was born of Mary fair
Within a stable, crude and bare,
Star shone bright
With its light Proclaimed
“His birth will set us free.”
And round his throne
angels did sing
“All glory be to Christ our King.”
Poor shepherds

⁴ Text & Music: Jeffery H. Rickard. © 1996 The Lorenz Corporation (admin. Music Services). All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254..

humble and distraught Came for to see what God hath wrought; They found with great dismay A child in poor array, A Babe so small in manger laid; Yet casting doubt and fear aside, They saw in Christ God magnified. The Word made flesh came down to earth To save us all from worldly mirth; This lowly Child, scourged and defiled, Did bear our sins upon a tree; So Christians now come forth and see, Adore your Lord on bended knee.

A READING

REFLECTION

Pastor Wendy Lamb

*HYMN

O Holy Night

Adolphe C. Adam

See the last pages of the order of service for the words and music.

The OFFERING of our TITHES and GIFTS

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and 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.

INVITATION to GATHER on the PLAZA

Tonight, as we gather on the plaza to sing, you are invited to exit by any door, and make a wide circle on the plaza in silence. When all have gathered, Pastor Wendy will bring the light from the Christ candle to the circle where she will light the first candles. We will silently share the light around the circle. Please turn your unlit candle parallel to the ground and

light it from the flame. Once your candle is lit, you may hold it upright for others to receive the light around the circle. Once all our candles are lit, we will sing "Silent Night" under the winter stars.

***HYMN 122**

Silent Night, Holy 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!

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.

CHARGE and BENECTION

There are large baskets to receive your candles at the edges of the plaza.

Please deposit them as you leave. Thank you!

WE GREET EACH OTHER with CHRISTMAS JOY

GREETERS: Shelby Obershaw, Jeff Molcan

USHERS: Mark Adelson, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

O Holy Night⁵

Introduction/Interlude

1 O ho - ly night, the stars are bright-ly
 2 Led by the light of faith se - rene - ly.
 3 Tru - ly he taught us to love one an -

shin - ing, it is the night of the dear Sav - ior's birth.
 beam - ing, with glow - ing heart by his cra - dle we stand.
 oth - er; his law is love and his gos - pel is peace.

Long lay the world in sin and er - ror pin - ing, till he ap -
 So led by light of a star sweet-ly gleam - ing, here came the
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our broth - er, and in his

peared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the
 wise men from the O - rient land. The King of kings lay
 name all op - pres - sion shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in

⁵ Text: John S. Dwight (1813-1893). Music: Adolphe C. Adam (1803-1856); arr. Jack Schrader. Music arr. ©1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

wea - ry world re - joic - es, for yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn!
 thus in low - ly man - ger, in all our tri - als born to be our friend;
 grate - ful cho - rus rais - ing, let all with - in us praise his ho - ly name.

Fall on your knees! O hear the an - gel voic - es! O
 he knows our need, he guards us from all dan - ger. Be -
 Christ is the Lord! O praise his name for - ev - er! His

night di - vine! O night when Christ was born! O
 hold your King; be - fore him low - ly bend! Be -
 power and glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim! His

1, 2
 night di - vine! O night, O night di - vine!
 hold your King; be - fore him low - ly bend!

3
 glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim!