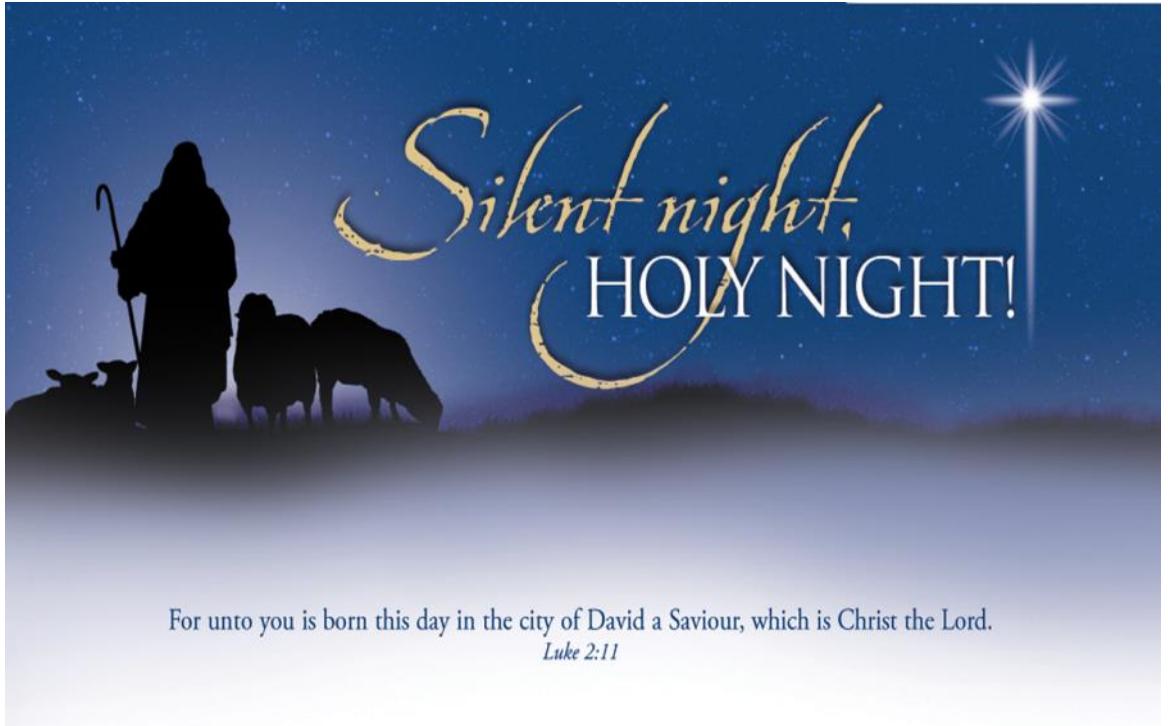


FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2018  
PRELUDE 9:30PM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00PM



**First Presbyterian Church**

TRANSFORMING LIVES  
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are so glad that you are here. We hope that joining us for worship this Christmas Eve will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at First Presbyterian, we realize we need each other, and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress.

If you are new to First Pres, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship and education opportunities. If you would like to learn more about us, please fill out the visitor information on the welcome card in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate. You also may contact any of our pastors over the phone or by email. God's peace to you today.

~ Rev. Dr. Annie Epling, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Rev. Bill Lane, Rev. Ann Pitman

† *Those who are able please stand.*

*Please share the Friendship Register with one another.*

### PRELUDE

“Sinfonia” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

“Pastorale Symphony” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Still, Still, Still

Robert A. Hobby

*Cassandra Petrie, soloist*

O Come, Little Children

Robert A. Hobby

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Robert A. Hobby

“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

*Cassandra Petrie, soloist*

O Holy Night

arr. Arthur Frackenpohl

### WELCOME

† **PROCESSIONAL CAROL** Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

**Women:** Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

**Men:** He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

**All:** And through all his wondrous childhood He would honor and obey;  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned, All in white shall wait around.

†LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Julia & Charlotte Epling

Reader 1: Tonight we light all five candles: for Peace, Joy, Love and Hope... and one to represent the presence of God's light through Jesus Christ. This season, these candles have reminded us of the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night, to become those who help to shine the light of Christ wherever we are – our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

All: Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

†CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

All: 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!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created: (*refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest: (*refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5  
*God calls the light good.*

Rev. Bill Lane

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 15: 1-6  
*God's covenant with Abraham.*

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†CAROL Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

EST IST EIN' ROS'

All: **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath 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.**

**This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
En-fleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.**

**THIRD LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**All: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined.**

One: For a child is born to us, a son given to us;

**All: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

One: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

**All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

James McCullough

*How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room Lit by a star?*

*Can we see the little child, Is he within? If we lift the wooden latch, May we go in?*

*May we stroke the creatures there, Ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?*

*If we touch his tiny hand Will he awake? Will he know we've come so far Just for his sake?*

*Great Kings have precious gifts, And we have naught,*

*Little smiles and little tears Are all we have brought. For all weary children Mary must weep.*

*Here on this bed of straw Sleep, children, sleep. God in his mother's arms, Babes in the Byre,*

*Sleep, as they sleep who finds Their heart's desire.*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

All: **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

**FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35, 38  
*The angel Gabriel greets Mary.*

Luci Foltz

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

African Noel

arranged by André Thomas

*Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel,*

*Sing we all Noel, sing we all Noel, Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.*

*O Come, ye people, gather here To hear the news of good cheer.*

*The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.*

*Sing Noel, Sing noel, sing Noel. Noel.*

**SIXTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7  
*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Rev. Ann Pitman

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†**CAROL** Joy To the World

ANTIOCH

All: **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 world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

## Christmas Lullaby

John Rutter

*Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:*

*Angels are singing, their sound fills the air .*

*Wisemen have journeyed to greet their Messiah; But only a mother and baby lie there.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.'*

*Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?*

*Why does he bear neither scepter nor crown?*

*Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,*

*With peace as his scepter and love for his crown.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.'*

*What though your treasures are not gold or incense?*

*Lay them before him with hearts full of love.*

*Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother*

*Who bore us a Savior by grace from above.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.*

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.'*

**EIGHTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Terry Epling

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†**CAROL** Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

All: **Angels, we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

All: **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.**

**NINTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

†**CAROL** Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

ERMUNTRE DICH

**Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This Child now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.**

*(During the carol and as the Sanctuary lights are dimmed, the Choir Members will light the congregation's candles. To light your candle, tip unlit candle into the flame of a lighted candle. Candles should be properly extinguished before placing them in boxes at the end of the service. Thank you!)*

†**CAROL** Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**All: 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.**

**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.**

†**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Flourish on "Joy to the World"

Robert A. Hobby

***Ministers -***

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Rev. Bill Lane, Rev. Ann Pitman

***Chancel Choir -***

(soprano) Christa Cook, Marta Hilworth, Joan Jackson, Antoinette Lee, Gretchen Lee,  
Cassandra Petrie, Patricia Pierce, Marianne Platt, Sandy Shearer;

(alto) Jane Beer, Virginia Coats, Susan Dorion, Mary Jane Ormerod, Fran Page, Jill Therrien,  
Mary Winters;

(tenor) Kathie Bishop, Scott McMeen, Marj Sapp;

(bass) David Beer, Jim Mergenthal, Dan Michnay, Kip Ormerod

***Crucifer***—Hayden Patterson

***Torch Bearers*** - Julia Epling, Charlotte Epling

***Ushers*** - Deb Ward, Dick Florea, Wendell Cree, Dave Beer

## CHRISTMAS EVE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Dr. Chelsea Vaught, Director of Music, Organist and Harpsichordist

Kathryn A. Miller, Chancel Choir Accompanist

### *Violin I*

Johanna Bourkova-Morunov

concertmaster

David Ling

### *Violin II*

Alexandra Tsilibes

Ervin Orban

### *Viola*

Theodore Chemey

Rachel Mossburg

### *Cello*

David Rezits

### *Bass*

Kevin Piekarski

### *Flute*

Hillary Feibel

### *Oboe*

Pavel Morunov

### *Trumpet*

Todd Ward

Matthew Walter

### *Horn*

Katherine Loesch

### *Trombone*

Michael Petek

### *Tuba*

James Court

**Advent Wreath** crafted by Lowell Mason and Ray Benckenstein.

**Banners** designed and constructed by Patty Griest

### Our Advent Banners

**The First Advent Banner, the “Rose,”** derives its design from the little rose of Palestine. The five roses symbolize the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day.

**The Second Advent Banner, the “Dove,”** bears the heavenly message to the shepherds with the descending dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit on one side and the ascending dove symbolizing the striving human spirit on the other.

**The Third Advent Banner, the “Emmanuel,”** carries an abstract symbol which attempts to convey, through the motion in shapes and colors, divinity and earth, the concept of “Emmanuel — God with us.” The word “Rejoice” emerges from the background as the inner joy of knowing that God emerges from within the person.

**The Fourth Advent Banner, the “Shepherds,”** emphasizes the humble people, in their natural environment, to whom the birth of Jesus was first announced.

### The Christmas Banners

**“The true light that enlightens every man...,”** John 1:9, forms the basis of the banner. Light radiates in all directions from the central figure, the Chi Rho, which is an ancient monogram for the name of Christ.

**The “Peace on Earth”** banner was designed around the Old Testament or Tau cross. It was made by a sixth grade church school class.

**Throughout the four weeks of Advent, our Sanctuary and Chapel are made beautiful with a variety of Christmas decorations. These are made possible through gifts given by members and friends of the congregation to the glory of God in loving memory of:**

Max & Carol Achleman by William L. Fish.

E. Ross & Marian Adair by Steve & Kathy Adair.

Tom Adams by Nancy Adams.

All my loved ones by Marianne Platt.

Francis & Emma Almeida, father & mother-in-law, grandfather, nana, great-grandfather & great-grandmother, by Betty-Alice, Tyler, Kelly, Nicholas & Matthew Almeida and Kimberley Almeida de Atarama & Martin Atarama.

Ann & John Andreas, Doras Bailey, Mary & Jack Byers, George Mather, Bill Moody, Elsie Myers, Sandy Niles, Lloyd Pinkerton, Jack Ruhl, Vern & Ruth Sandy, Elbert Smith, Donna Sproat, Jean Volz and John & Marion Walley by their friends.

Raymond, Bernice and Terrill Borne by Catherine Borne.

Gail, Stephen and Dan Boyer and Terry Black, aunt, uncles and cousin, by Kimberley Almeida de Atarama and Tyler & Kelly Almeida.

Leo & Hazel Brenizer and Jose & Gilda Perez by Ned & Ady Brenizer.

Edmund Cadarette, father of George, Florence Cadarette, mother of George, Donald Smith, father of Julie, and Pauline Cadarette, sister of George, by George & Julie Cadarette.

Reid G. & Janet K. Chapman and Mark C. Chapman by Arthur & Linda Chapman.

Bob Christon by Norma Christon, Kent Christon & family and Kristin Klausung.

Bere Clarke by Lucy Clarke.

Lowell S. Coats by Virginia B. Coats.

Walter Curry, Sr. by his family.

Patricia Anne Doerr by Robert Doerr.

Charles H. & Lillian S. Fish, Charles Scudder Fish and Ida B. Scudder by William L. Fish.

Tom Foltz and our parents by Luci Foltz.

Grandparents by Betty-Alice Almeida.  
Philip C. Kaiser and Julie Dixon by Phyllis Kaiser.  
Mary Lou Kerch by her sister, Barbara Kerch.  
Loved ones by Natalie Ann Bloodgood.  
Loved ones by Dick Florea & Sandy Shearer.  
Loved ones by Susan & Frank Johnson.  
David & Elizabeth Morgan, Ilo & Lloyd Forste and Hari Vasu by Beth Marks & family.  
Kathleen Moses by the Gumbert family.  
Jean Munro-Dutton by her family.  
Sandy Niles & Donna Sproat by Kathie Bishop and Jo Gallant.  
Robert Norton by Beverly Norton & family.  
Our dear parents & grandparents, Robert & Anni Rödel by Diana Spindler and Joanna & Christopher Johnson.  
Our families by Sherrie Steiner and Eric Evans.  
Our grandson, James Fletchal, by James & Kaye Lobsiger.  
Our grandson, Brett Harding, and our friend, Bill Mead, by Lou & Art Brickman.  
Edward L. Sandman, Sr. by Karen Sandman & family.  
Vilas & Alice Scrogham by Nancy Gerow.  
Howard & Johanna Schneider by their family.  
Phyllis & T. Richard Shoaff by Eunice & Tom Shoaff.  
Judy Sites & Tom Graham by Tom & Nancy (Graham) Sites.  
George E. Smith and Marcella & Lester Merica by Anita Wolfe & family.  
Maxwell P. Smith by his family.  
Max & Louise Taylor and Mildred Sharpley by Tom & Anne Barnett.  
Edna & Paul Stoneburner by Larry and Brenda Stoneburner.  
Richard H. & Anne K. Waterfield by their family.

## 2018 CHRISTMAS MUSIC DONORS

*Thank you to those who have contributed to help with the cost of our great musicians!*

*in memory of loved ones*

by Steve & Kathy Adair

*in memory of Tom Adams*

by Nancy Adams & Family

*in memory of Patricia Anne Doerr*

by Robert Doerr

*in memory of my parents- Jim & Joan McGlaughlin*

by Susan Dorion

*in loving memory of Don & Ellen Fleming*

by their family

*in memory of Lloyd and Margaret Bridges*

by Al & Meribeth Figel

*in memory of Tom Foltz*

by Luci Foltz

*in memory of Josh Gerow*

by Nancy Gerow

*in memory of Andy Gumbert*

by the Gumbert family

*in memory of William C. Moses*

by the Gumbert family

*in memory of my parents, Edward & Mildred Zent Kerch*

by Barbara Kerch

*in memory of David & Elizabeth Morgan, Ilo & Lloyd Forste and Hari Vasu*

by Beth Marks & family

*in memory of William & Iole Memmer, Richard & Carol Worman and Margie Memmer Striker*

by Robin & Susan Memmer

*in memory of their son Robert, parents Emmet & Ruth Mergenthal, and LaMarr & Irma Bercaw and Jim's sister Nancy Mergenthal*

by Jim and Sondra Mergenthal

*in memory of loved ones*

by Joseph & Carol Offerle

*in loving memory of Lloyd Pinkerton & Jack Ruhl*

by Marianne Platt

*in memory of Axel & Esther Swedberg and Agnes & John Shoaff*

by Eunice & Tom Shoaff

*in memory of Tom Graham and Judy Sites*

by Tom Sites and Nancy Graham Sites

*in memory of Maxwell Smith*

by his family

*in memory of Jack Spindler*

by Joanna, Christopher and Diana

*in honor of family and friends*

by Carole & Jeffrey Slater

*in memory of Norm Williams and Laurie Williams*

by Janet Williams and family

Additional Gifts from:

Betty-Alice Almeida

Tom & Anne Barnett

David & Karen Bash

David & Jane Beer

Kathie Bishop

Ned & Adeline Brenizer

Wendell & Mary Cree

Marsha Heller

Carolyn Krebs

Dan & Elaine Michnay

Kathy Miller

David & Judy Ruoff

*Tonight's worship service is an adaptation of an English form of worship, "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," which is generally associated with Christmas Eve. The pattern of this service includes God's Word proclaimed and contemplated in a special sequence of readings and prayers, interwoven with anthems and hymns. This progression of Biblical readings unveils the mystery of the prophecy of Christ's birth to its fulfillment.*

*First conceived in the late nineteenth century by Archbishop Benson for use in the Truro Cathedral, the service was simplified by Dean Eric Milner-White for use in 1918, in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The inherent beauty of this type of worship is the limitless possible combination of pairings between Christmas lessons and musical responses in the form of anthems, hymns and carols.*

*Thank you for joining us for this special Worship Service.*

**Join us in worship this Sunday, December 30**

10:00am (English) Sanctuary

11:00am (Korean) McMillen Chapel

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Contact us by phone at 260-426-7421

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