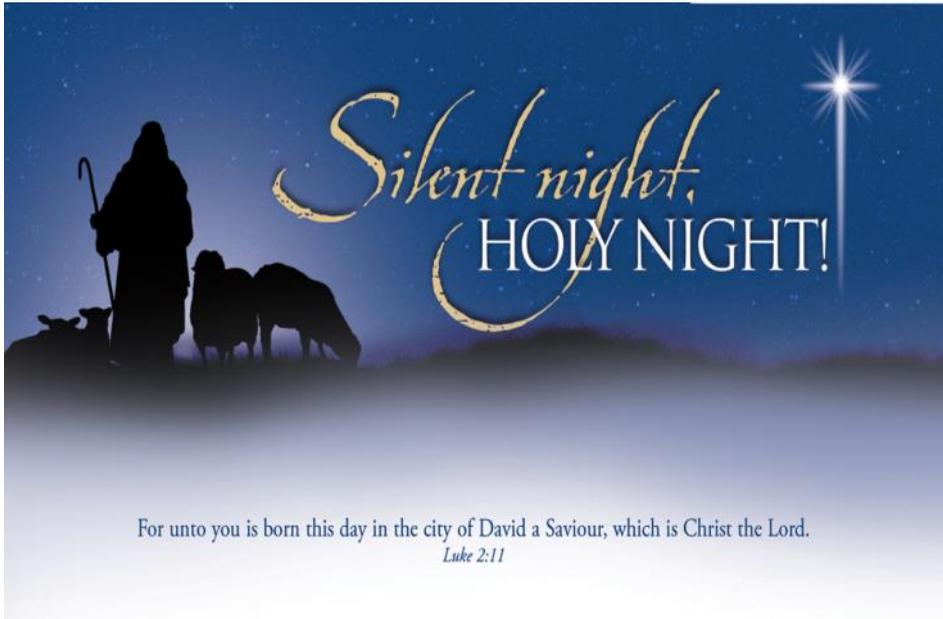


FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2021
PRELUDE 9:30PM
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00PM



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET



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 Church, 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 “Get Connected” card and leave it with an usher. 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. Ann Pitman and
Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

†*Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

PRELUDE	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	Gordon Schuster
	Pastorale Symphony from Messiah	George Frideric Handel
	The First Noel	Gordon Schuster
	Christmas Concerto, Op. 6, No. 8	Arcangelo Corelli
	The Shepherd's Farewell	Hector Berlioz
	O Come, All Ye Faithful	Gordon Schuster

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the darkness of evening to celebrate the newborn Light.

With family and friends, we worship and adore the Christ-child.

With Mary, we will ponder these things in our hearts.

With Joseph, we will give thanks to the Lord for God's steadfast love.

Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, has been born!

We gather to worship him and welcome his peaceful kingdom.

His name will be blessed among all the earth;

His reign shall have no end!

Come, our wait is finished! Let us worship the newborn King!

The Soloist sings the first stanza, and the congregation is invited to stand and sing at the beginning of the second stanza.

*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.*

**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 meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus 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.**

†LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader One: Tonight is Christmas Eve — our preparations are complete for the coming of Jesus. We lit a candle each week during Advent to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world. Tonight we are reminded that God so loved the world that a Child was given ... Love incarnate.

Leader Two: We light the candle of hope to proclaim that God's light comes into the world.

Leader One: We light the candle of peace to proclaim that God's promises are fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace.

Leader Two: We light the candle of joy to celebrate that God's saving power comes into the world.

Leader One: We light the candle of love to proclaim that God's love is revealed in the Child born in Bethlehem.

Leader Two: We light the Christ candle to proclaim that out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness through the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

All: May the Lord Jesus Christ take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever. Amen.

†CAROL NO. 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Setting by David Wilcocks/Christopher Nelson

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, Christ the Lord!*

True God from True God, Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! *Refrain.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

God calls the light good.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Sebastian Bach

Chancel Choir

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning; ye shepherds, shrink not with afright, 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.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Rev. Youngsoo An

God's promise to Abraham.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

†CAROL NO.129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

EST IST EIN' ROS'

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. Ed Kester

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM See Amid the Winter's Snow

Carl Schalk

Chancel Choir

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Refrain: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn; sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies; he who, throned in height sublime, sits among the cherubim: Refrain.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? Refrain.

As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels singing "Peace on earth" told us of the Savior's birth. Refrain.

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild, teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility: Refrain.

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

Rev. Ann Pitman

The ruler from Bethlehem.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

†**CAROL NO. 121** O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Setting by James Biery

**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

Rev. Susan Kester

The angel Gabriel greets Mary.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM A Virgin Most Pure

Charles Wood

Chancel Choir

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell, to be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, which Adam's transgression hath wrapped us in. Refrain: Aye and therefore be merry, rejoice and be you merry; set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide.

In Bethlehem Jewry a city there was, where Joseph and Mary together did pass, and there to be taxed with many one mo', for Caesar commanded the same should be so: Refrain.

But when they had entered the city so fair, a number of people so mighty was there, that Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small, could find in the inn there no lodging at all. Refrain.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

†CAROL NO. 134 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Setting by Robert A. Hobby

**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 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.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Todd Sandman Cruz

The shepherds go to the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM A Sound of Singing Fills the Air

Malcolm Archer

Chancel Choir

*A sound of singing fills the air in praise of all that God has done, who sent, our human life to share,
his Son, his own beloved Son; the Prince of life the Father gave, a wayward world to seek and save.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*The sovereign King of all the earth, and Lord of all the worlds there are, he chose as emblems of his
birth, a stable and a shining star; within a manger-bed to lie, whose fingers formed the starry sky.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*He came, the Father's final Word, from that celestial throne above; a child, and yet creation's Lord,
to show the human face of Love: the love of God to earth come down, who chose the cross before the
crown. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*So lift our songs to fill the skies! From manger-crib and cattle-stall, from cross and grave, behold
him rise, the high-ascended Lord of all, whose praise the whole creation sings, as Lord of lords and
King of kings! Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Michael Lindvall

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emanuel. *Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

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.

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

During the carol and as the Sanctuary lights are dimmed, the ushers 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!

Following the lighting of the candles, the congregation stands when the organ begins the introduction.

†CAROL NO. 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.

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** Chorale Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo*, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ministers:

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Rev. Ann Pitman and Rev. Carrie Winebrenner.

Chancel Choir:

Sopranos — Grace Hyein Baek, Brittney Bressler, Leslie Butterbaugh, Susan Dorion, Jiin Jung, Rachel Parker, Jen Poiry and Sandy Shearer. *Altos* — Angela Green, Joan Kern, Mary Jane Ormerod, Fran Page, Cassandra Petrie, Jill Therrien and Mary Winters. *Tenors* — Quinton Davis, Scott McMeen and Marj Sapp. *Basses* — Dave Beer, Joe Foltz, Jim Mergenthal, Dan Michnay and Kip Ormerod.

Crucifer:

Julia Epling

Torch Bearers:

Evan Mallory and Leah Mallory.

Ushers:

Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Dan Serban and Jerry Winters.

Thank you to those assisting with tonight’s Christmas Eve services.

Advent Candle Liturgists (Elders) — Terri Lindvall, Tim Byer, Laurie Satter and Heidi Schulenberg

Advent Candle Liturgists (Deacons) — Scott McMeen and Courtney Wallace.

Scripture Readers — Rev. Ed Kester, Rev. Susan Kester, Rev. Michael Lindvall, Rev. Bill Stone
and Todd Sandman Cruz, Director of Fine & Performing Arts.

CHRISTMAS EVE ORCHESTRA

Brent Neuenschwander, Director of Music Ministry & Organist

Kathryn A. Miller, Assistant Organist

Cassandra Petrie, Assisting Conductor

Violin I

David Ling, Concertmaster
Alexandra Tsilibes

Violin II

Kevin McMahon
Ervin Orban

Viola

Theodore Chemey
Debra Welter

Cello

Deborah Nitka-Hicks

Bass

Kevin Piekarski

Flute

Hillary Feibel

Oboe

Pavel Morunov

Trumpet

Matthew Walter
Todd Ward

Horn

Katherine Loesch

Trombone

Michael Petek

Tuba

James Court

Timpani

Colin Dorion

Crash Cymbals

Susan Dorion

During the last two weeks, our Sanctuary and Chapel have been made beautiful with a variety of Christmas poinsettias. 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 Nancy Leef.

In loving memory of Ann & John Andreas, Doris Bailey, Mary & Jack Byers Kathie Bishop, Jo Gallant, George Mather, Bill Moody, Elsie Myers, Beryl Nicholson, Sandy Niles, Lloyd Pinkerton, Jack Rubl, Vern & Ruth Sandy, John Scott, Elbert Smith, Donna Sproat, Jean Volz and John & Marion Walley by their friends.

In loving memory of Tom Barnett, Harold & Mildred Lowery, and Max & Louis Taylor by Anne Barnett.

In loving memory of Denny Becker by Kim Netherland.

In loving memory of Kathie Bishop by Anita Wolfe.

In loving memory of Ned Brenizer by Adeline Brenizer.

In loving memory of Lowell D Coats by Virginia B. Coats.

In loving memory Mary Coverdale Parker by Rollyn & Julie Coverdale.

In loving memory of James & Rebecca Davis, Carol Davis, Helen Davis-Hansen and Darren Collins by Denise Davis.

In loving memory of Julie Dixon, Phil Kaiser & Loved Ones by Phyllis R. Kaiser.

In loving memory of Patricia Ann (Gallacher) Doerr by Robert Doerr & Family.

In loving memory of deceased family members and friends by Peter & Vernell Fettig.

In loving memory of my Family by Betty-Alice Almeida.

In loving memory of Tom Foltz, John Cobrs and Our Parents by Luci Foltz.
In loving memory of Karen Gonzagowski by Lucas & Laurie Satter and family.
In loving memory of Our Grandson, Brett Harding, and Our Dear Friend, Bill Mead by Art & Lou Brickman.
In loving memory of Carol & Allen Keirn and Max & Grace Kester by Rev. Ed & Rev. Susan Keirn Kester.
In loving memory of Edgar, Mary Kay & Greg Kettler by Carol Kettler.
In honor of Loved Ones by the Franklin Johnson Family.
In loving memory of Mary & Galen Maus by Art & Lou Brickman.
In loving memory of Kathleen Moses by Diane & Ron Gumbert.
In loving memory of our son, Robert Mergenthal, parents Emmet & Ruth Mergenthal and LaMarr & Irma Bercaw, and Jim's sister Nancy Mergenthal by Jim & Sondra Mergenthal.
In loving memory of Bassett Buckley "Buck" Nix and Frederic "Fritz" Lancaster Perry by Jack & Betsy Perry Patton & Family.
In loving memory of Robert P. Norton by Beverly Norton & children.
In loving memory of my Parents by Kathy Miller.
In loving memory of Vito & Judith Perillo by Allison Perillo & Emily DeLong.
In loving memory of John & Ruth Rhinehart by Phil & Kathleen Rhinehart.
In loving memory of E. Ross & Marian Adair by Steve & Kathy Adair.
In loving memory of Edward L. Sandman, Sr. and Kenneth F. Carbaugh, Sr. and Kenneth F. Carbaugh, Jr. by Mark & Karen Sandman Carbaugh.
In loving memory of Agnes & John Shoaff and Ester & Axel Swedberg by Eunice & Tom Shoaff.
In loving memory George E. Smith and Marcella & Lester Merica by Anita Wolfe.
In loving memory of Raymond & Jennie Yount and Steve Yount by Don & Linda (Chappelear) Yount, Sandy Yount, Donald A Chappelear, Eva Chappelear and Donald L Chappelear.
Other gifts by those who wish to remain Anonymous.

The Christmas Music has been sponsored by members and friends of the congregation to the glory of God:

In loving memory of Max & Carol Achleman by William Fish.
In loving memory of Max & Carol Achleman by Nancy Leaf.
In loving memory of Tom Barnett, Harold & Mildred Lowery, and Max & Louis Taylor by Anne Barnett.
In loving memory of Jane E. Beer by Dave Beer.
In loving memory of my father, Leo Casso, by Angela Green.
In gratitude for the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir & Kathy Miller by Brent Neuenschwander.
In loving memory of Lowell D Coats by Virginia B. Coats.
In loving memory of our parents, Betty & Bob Conklin and Phebe & Ed Weissner by Steve & Marcie Weissner.
In loving memory of my beloved wife, Patricia Ann (Gallacher) Doerr by Robert Doerr.
In loving memory of deceased family members and friends by Peter & Vernell Fettig.
In loving memory of Charles & Lillian Fish and Ida B.S. Scudder by William Fish.
In loving memory of Tom Foltz by Luci Foltz.
In loving memory of Josh Gerow by Nancy Gerow.

In loving memory of Andy Gumbert & William Moses by Ron & Diane Gumbert.
In loving memory of Edgar, Mary Kay & Greg Kettler by Carol Kettler.
In honor of Loved Ones by Steve & Kathy Adair.
In honor of Loved Ones by Dick Florea & Sandy Shearer.
In honor of Loved Ones by the Franklin Johnson Family.
In honor of Loved Ones by Jeffrey & Carole Slater.
In loving memory of my Family by Betty-Alice Almeida.
In loving memory of my Parents by Kathy Miller.
In loving memory of Carrie Schloss by Krista Schloss, John Maxson & family.
In loving memory of my parents, Joe & Ruth Shanahan by Mary L. Campbell.
In loving memory of Phyllis & T. Richard Shoaff by Eunice & Tom Shoaff.
*In loving memory of Jack Spindler, and Our dear parents & grandparents, Robert & Anni Rödel
 by Diana Spindler and Joanna & Christopher Johnson.*
*Other gifts by: Nan Bloodgood, Carolyn Krebs, Daniel & Elaine Michnay, Joseph & Carol Offerle,
 Kip & Mary Jane Ormerod, Chris & Heidi Schulenberg and those who wish to remain Anonymous.*

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 26, 2021

11:00am (English) Sanctuary

11:00am (Korean) McMillen Chapel

12:15pm Potluck Brunch