

December 29, 2024
First Sunday of Christmas
11:00am — Sanctuary



“Flight Into Egypt”, Giotto, c.1304-1306, fresco, Scrovegni (Arena) Chapel, Padua, Italy



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Thank you for joining us today! We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know the Lord is God. The Lord has made us, we belong to God.

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

The Lord is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

God is faithful to all generations.

***Hymn No. 145** What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

***Call to Confession**

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in times of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God Emmanuel: in all moments of the day or night and in all joys and sorrows that life brings, you are with us. In every struggle and doubt, you are the light of the world.

We confess that while we call you Emmanuel and believe that you are always near, we allow daily life to crowd you to the edges of our hopes and dreams. We celebrate the Christmas season with countless things to do but find no time to pray or meditate about how you have blessed us by becoming one of us through the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In these days after Christmas, forgive us for allowing passing things to crowd out the holy and eternal. Inspire us to reorder our lives after Christ's example and to be constant in prayer, meditation and service in the community of faith. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Adapted from John 1 and 3

Hear the good news of the Gospel. The Word has become flesh and lives among us. God loves the world so dearly that God has given us the Word, God's only Son, so that through faith we may not perish but may have eternal life. God has not sent his Son into the world to condemn the world, but the world might be saved by the Son. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 137 He Came Down**

HE CAME DOWN

1.He came down that we may have hope; he
 2.He came down that we may have peace; he
 3.He came down that we may have joy; he
 4.He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have hope; he
 came down that we may have peace; he
 came down that we may have joy; he
 came down that we may have love; he

have hope; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have joy; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Solo Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary its flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us you speak of the light, gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar, shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your son's love, star unknowing of night and day, spirit we wait for your loving Son.

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:41-52

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “My Father’s House”

Rev. Hal Thomas

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostless 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.

***Hymn No. 128** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Announcements

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 the Offering

Offertory Lo, How a Rose

setting by David Cherwien

***Responsive Hymn No. 124 Still, Still, Still**

STILL, STILL, STILL

Musical score for 'Still, Still, Still' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The vir - gin's ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold - ing. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of all good gifts, in giving your Son for the salvation of the world, you have given yourself. In this season of giving, we offer ourselves along with what we have for the work of your people. Receive our offering for your purposes of reconciliation, healing and faith. With thankful hearts we pray, Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 147 The First Nowell (Stanzas 1-3)**

THE FIRST NOWELL

***Benediction**

***Postlude Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

setting by David Cherwien

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Hal Thomas

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Denise Davis, Steve Weissner

Ushers: Anne Barnett, David Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Soloist: Elizabeth Graham, Soprano

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online. CCLI Copyright: 2801108; Streaming: 21661340.

Hearing Loop: To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T,” T-Coil or telephone position.

Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers



This Week at First Pres!

Thank you to Rev. Hal Thomas for preaching and leading worship today while Rev. Winebrenner and Dr. Epling are on vacation. Rev. Thomas is well known to the congregation and has served churches in the Fort Wayne community for many years. We are blessed to have him with us today.

Giving: As we approach the end of the year, please note that all donations to First Presbyterian Church need to be postmarked by December 31 to be included in your 2024 giving statements. Online donations can be made [here](#). If you have any questions about end of year giving, please contact Bill Hickle at bhickle@firstpresfortwayne.org or 260-426-7421 x102.

The 2025 Giving Envelopes are now available in the small dining room. There are no assigned numbers, so take any box. Make sure to put your name on your envelope if using cash.

Church Office: Due to the holiday and staff vacation schedules, the church office will be closed December 25 thru 27th. Should needs arise, please email Bill Hickle, our church administrator, at bhickle@firstpresfortwayne.org. For pastoral care concerns, please call Rev. Ann Pitman at 260-267-1196.

Open House: You're invited to an Epiphany Open House at the home of Rev. Annie & Rev. Terry Epling (1927 Inverness Lakes Crossing) on Sunday, January 5, from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Stop by and celebrate Epiphany and the New Year with finger food and festive fellowship. All are welcome!