

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas

We Gather in God's Name...

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "The First Nowell" (*Verse 1*) #56
The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay akeeping their
sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

God and Father of Jesus Christ, we praise you for your steadfastness and your concern for humanity. Though, we were not faithful to you, the second person of the Trinity, the Word, came and dwelt with humanity. You showed us how to live through that baby born in a manger. Jesus taught throughout Israel, and it is through his righteousness that we are made righteous and enabled for eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Help us to announce this Good News to Conrad and all the world. It is in the name of our Lord Jesus that we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3: 8-19

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the offspring of woman shall strike the serpent's head.

***CAROL:** "Joy to the World!" (*Verses 1, 3*) #40

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.

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.

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22: 15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that by his offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

CAROL: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #2

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born
to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By
Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By
Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

***CAROL:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*Verse 1*) #9

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That
mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5: 2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Verses 1, 4*) #44

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.

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 visits the virgin Mary.

***CAROL:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (*Verse 1*) #38

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.

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 1: 18-23

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (*Verse 1*) #31

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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2: 1-20

The child is born; the shepherds go to the manger.

***CAROL:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*Verses 1-2*) #23

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.

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-20

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (*Verse 1, 5*) #66

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field
and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star. O
star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect
light!

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies. O star of
wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright; Westward
leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Most High God, you are the almighty, the sovereign. You are above all things and have power over all. When you spoke things into being, they became. You, though, are a merciful and gracious God. Despite that you exercise power over all things, you came in human form – initially as a baby -- that your creation might be made right. One day suffering will end, and reconciliation will be everywhere. With thanks for all your work in the world, we give these gifts for your church. Guide its work in the world. Amen.

CAROL: “What Child Is This” (*Verse 1*) #53
What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch
are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds
guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the
Babe, the Son of Mary!

PASTORAL PRAYER

NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14
John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

***CAROL:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (*Verse 1*) #41
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!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they’re a bit noisy. You’re also welcome to take them into the coatroom. As singing poses an increased risk for spread of the virus, we’ve limited the number of verses and request you keep your mask on for the duration of the service. Let us, though, celebrate the birth of baby Jesus and the Good News this brings to all on earth!

Our thanks go to our lay readers Karen Burditt & Martha Orcutt, and organist Ernestine Olson.

We are receiving gifts to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering. Please use the special envelopes located in the Narthex.

The Church Office will be closed **Friday, January 1st, 2021.**

Annual Reports are due in the office.

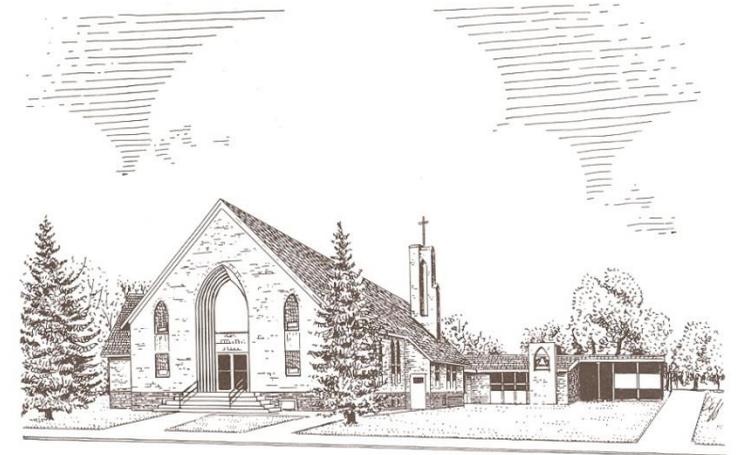
Wednesday Evening Prayer will not meet December 30th but will start again January 6th. If you haven’t had a chance to join us, we’d invite you to try a session for scripture readings and reflections, prayer, and fellowship.

Rev. Andy Smothers will be on vacation from **December 25th to January 1st, 2021.** Andy will be back leading worship on January 3rd.

Items for the **January church newsletter** are needed in the church office ASAP.

Last week, combined giving was **\$3,109.00.** In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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