

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2020, 7:00 PM

PRELUDE "Manger Carol"
Kit Workman & Dawn Hammermeister

VIOLA SOLO "Sing We Now of Christmas" Julie Katana

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. ⁱ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

***LITANY FOR CHRISTMASⁱⁱ**

One: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

All: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

One: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in peace and justice.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen

OPENING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #41
vv. 1 & 3

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!

The Child in Prophecy

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23

HYMN "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.

The Child Is Born

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:1-7

HYMN "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" #30

Born in the night, Mary's Child, A long way from Your home; Coming in need, Mary's Child, Born in a borrowed room. Clear shining light, Mary's Child, Your face lights up our way; Light of the world, Mary's Child, Dawn on our darkened day. Truth of our life, Mary's Child, You tell us God is good; Yes, it is true, Mary's Child, Shown on your cross of wood. Hope of the world, Mary's Child, You're coming soon to reign; King of the earth, Mary's Child, Walk in our streets again.

The Child Is Worshiped by the Shepherds

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 52:7-10; Luke 2:8-14

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" #23
vv. 1 & 3

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

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20

VIOLA SOLO "What Child Is This" Julie Katana

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

(The white color signifies the pure life of Christ. The flame is a symbol of Christ, the Light of the world).

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pat & Dale Keil and Bonnie Flesch

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Merciful and gracious God, this night we celebrate the greatest

gift to humankind – your coming to earth to dwell with us, to live an example for us, and to give us the opportunity for forgiveness and eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. In thankfulness for this gift and all your blessings, we return a tithe from what you have enabled us to obtain for your continued work in the world. Amen.

VOCAL SOLO “I Know Now” Jan Carter

The Lighting of the Candles and Sharing of the Light

(At this time, we will pass the light from person to person throughout the sanctuary while we sing the closing hymn. Please remember that the lighted candles must always remain upright. Unlighted candles can be held horizontal until they are lighted. Before leaving the sanctuary, please extinguish your candles, and leave them in the boxes in the narthex. Thank you . . . and Merry Christmas! Let us go forth, live in Christ's light, and share it with the world!)

*CLOSING HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” #60

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 a far, 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our **Candlelight Service this evening!** Please ask for a candle from one of the deacons in the narthex if you did not receive one when you came in. For the safe enjoyment of the candles this evening, please keep your candle upright while it is lit, with the plastic cup surrounding the flame. It is our sincere prayer that this service will help bring the light of Christ’s loving presence into each of our lives, and into all our homes, this Christmas.

Thanks go to Jan Carter our reader this evening, to Kit Workman & Dawn Hammermeister for accompaniment, our viola soloist Julie Katana, vocal soloist Jan Carter, and Advent Wreath Lighters Pat & Dale Keil and Bonnie Flesch.

The **Christmas Eve Offering** Is Dedicated to the Deacons’ Fund — to Support the Work of the Board of Deacons of Our Church. You may also contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering using the envelope enclosed in your bulletin. Please leave your offering in the trays on either side of the Narthex.

Poinsettias have been placed in the sanctuary in memory of John Keil and Norma Keil from their family.

The Church Office will be **closed Friday, December 25th**, Christmas Day. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas!

Wednesday Evening Prayer will not meet on **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.

Plan to join us, also, on December 27th, for another opportunity to worship God through lessons and carols.

Rev. Andy Smothers is on vacation until January 1st, 2020. Andy will be back leading worship on **January 3th**.

First Presbyterian Church



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Interim Pastor: Rev. Andrew Smothers
Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner
Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider

ⁱ Book of Common Worship, 178.

ⁱⁱ Book of Common Worship, 166-167.